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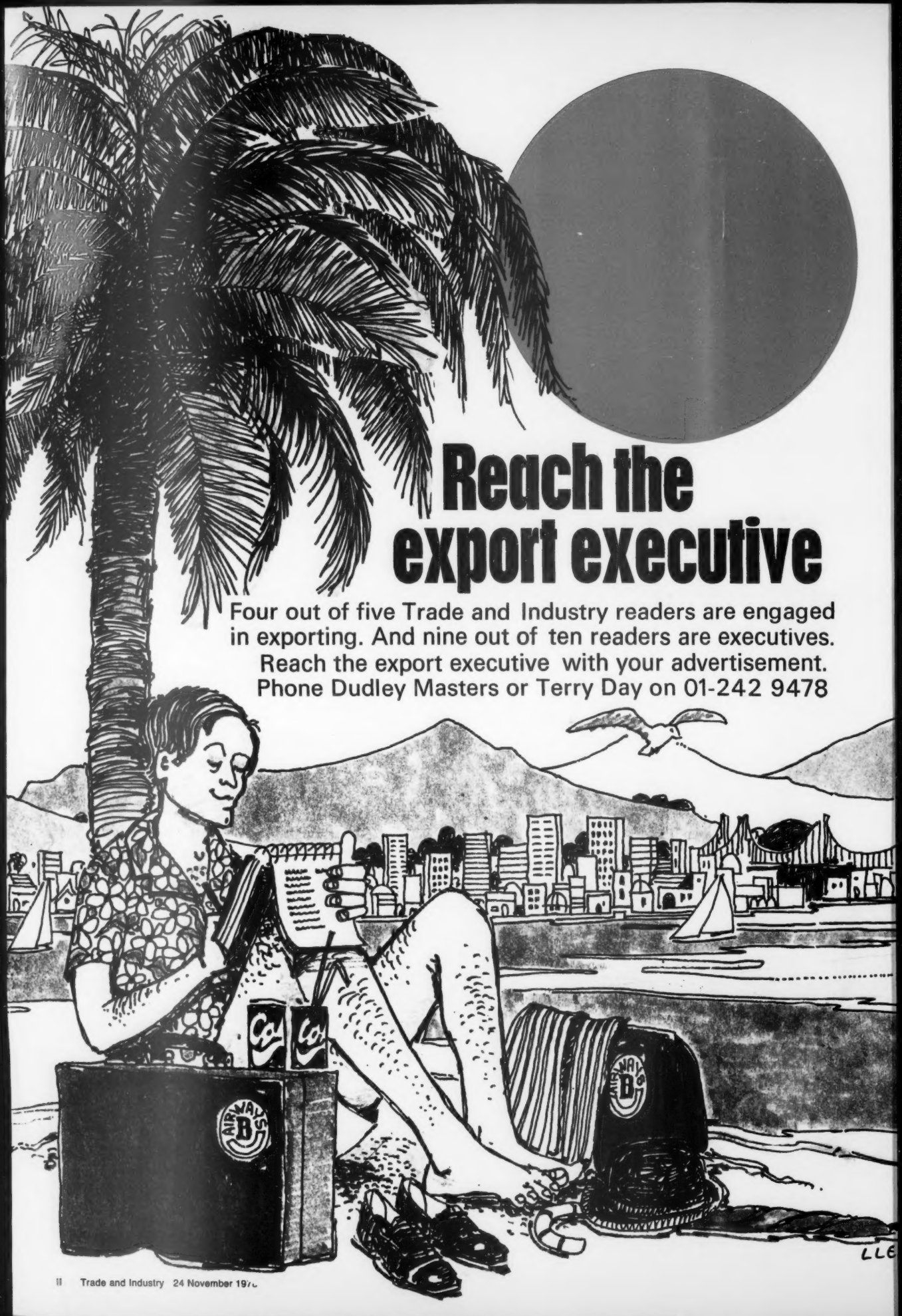
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Trade and Industry

24 November 1978

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This week

Committee to review company law 374
Small firms counselling service for east Midlands 374
Intermediate areas qualify for tourism projects 374
Dividends from technologies campaign 374
Cryer's duties undertaken by Huckfield 374
Marine Pollution Control Unit director 374
Largest post-war November drop in unemployment – Booth 375
Cigarette paper prices should be frozen 375

Home news

Worcester takeover best alternative for KME 377
Modest upturn in inflation expected 377
Advertising controls working well – Borrie 377
German industrialists advised on investing in UK 378
'Daily Telegraph' prices to be investigated 378
Hattersley considers report on books 378
Wider controls for pre-packed goods' measures 378
Six-point safety check for electric blankets 380
Official appointments 380
Government sales 381

New publications 382

Parliament 383

Technology news

SRC plans more support for engineering and science research 389
Strategy for energy conservation RD&D 389
First boiler project funded 390
DoI surveys waste tyre pyrolysis 390
University company to exploit new ideas 390
NPL dosemeter goes worldwide 391
Carbon-fibre component improves yarn-winder performance 391

New products 392

European community news

Portuguese accession backed by Prime Minister 393
Existing revenue sources for EEC budget inadequate 393
Jobs must be cornerstone of economic strategy 393
Deadline extended for agriculture projects grants 394
Value of Eua for 1979 395
EIB loan for Hull phone system 395
Brunner award for Melchett fuel medal 395
Britain is committed to enlargement – Owen 395
UK trade with EEC: first half 1978 397
Company mergers: third directive adopted 399

Overseas trade news

UK and China agree on two-way trade 401
UK-GDR joint commission points to potential trade areas 401
Debriefing on Moroccan mission 402
London chamber plans two 1979 Middle East missions 402
Mrs Hart attends Paris development meeting 403
Notices to importers
1716: Non-leather footwear from Taiwan 403

Exhibitions

UK stamps presence on philatelic fair 404
Power on at Enex 404

Export services 407

Country data

Argentina 408, Australia 408, Austria 408, Finland 408, Gibraltar 408, Greece 408, Mexico 408, Netherlands 409, Nigeria 409, Philippines 409, South Africa 409, Spain 409, Thailand 409, United States 409

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators 410
Current account of the UK balance of payments for October 411
Selective financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972 418
Wholesale textile houses: sales and stocks in September 422
Index of industrial production in September 422
Business Monitors 423
Engineering sales and orders to August 424
Patents recorded 'licences of right' 425
Turnover of the motor trades: third quarter 425
New companies in October 426
Price commission index for October 426
Retail prices index 426
Distributions from British Film Fund 426
New films registration forms 427
Registrations of British, community and foreign films 427
Films Act 1960: combination of quota periods 427
Index to statistics 427

Readers' reply service 428

EEC This is your business

Part 1 How it works Supplement

We apologise to those of our readers who have experienced difficulty in obtaining their copies of *Trade and Industry* in recent weeks. This has been due to an industrial dispute at HMSO, now settled, and we hope to clear the backlog and resume normal distribution within the next week.

Trade and Industry this week

HOME

Committee to review company law

The government intends to set up a standing advisory committee to undertake a continuing review of company law and to provide advice on general developments and specific proposals.

Announcing this on Monday during the second reading of the companies bill in the House of Commons, trade secretary John Smith said he no longer believed that an occasional inquiry was a sensible way to review the development of company law. But it was necessary to have an independent and public body to offer advice. He therefore proposed to set up a Standing Advisory Committee on Company Law on which not only the profession, but industry, the City and trade unions would be represented.

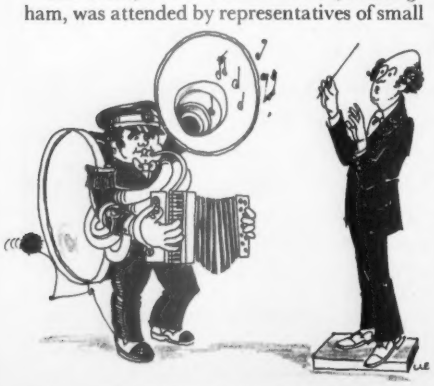
The detailed terms of reference and method of operation of the committee would be settled in the light of proposed consultations with interested parties, but Mr Smith said he expected that the committee's reports and recommendations would normally be published.

Small firms counselling service for east Midlands

The East Midlands Small Firms Counselling Service, the last to be established in England, was launched at Nottingham this Tuesday. It will be run by Dennis Walton, the area counselling adviser in the east Midlands who was until recently managing director of a division of the Coats-Patons Knitwear Group, and his team of 12 counsellors.

The event, at the Council House, Nottingham, was attended by representatives of small firms, chambers of commerce and trade, the banks, trade associations and colleges from Nottinghamshire, which the scheme will serve.

Graham Kendall, head of the small firms division at the Department of Industry, said there were three major areas of concern relating to small firms. These were finance, about which the government was considering the possibility of introducing a loan guarantee scheme; public procurement, where the effort would probably be concentrated on small firms having access to and knowledge of government contracts; and thirdly, cutting down on form filling.



Intermediate areas qualify for tourism projects

Tourism projects in the intermediate areas are now eligible for financial assistance from the national tourist boards, trade secretary John Smith announced on Wednesday.

Until now tourism projects in only the development and special development areas have qualified for aid. The new provision doubles the area of England which can benefit and means that the whole of Scotland and Wales are now eligible.

Subject to parliamentary approval, an additional £1.5 million will be made available to the English Tourist Board in 1979-80 to provide for the extension in England.

Dividends from industrial technologies campaign

The industrial technologies campaign (CFIT) was paying dividends for industry, Les Huckfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, told the concluding conference of the campaign on Tuesday.

'There are few instant cures for industrial problems when the difficulties that have been diagnosed are of long standing and the industrial technologies are in the main concerned with helping industry to tackle some of its long term problems,' Mr Huckfield said.

At the end of the campaign the success of the advisory centres which had been established and which had been one of the principal elements of the campaign went a long way towards veryifying that the message was getting across to industry. He said that they had earned between them in excess of £3 million in consultancy fees and it was worth mentioning that even the national corrosion service, which was the latest to be established in 1975, was rapidly approaching a figure of 1000 inquiries a year.

The Department of Industry's industrial technologies campaign was designed to promote the better application of low-level technology in industry. The aim was to realise the considerable potential for savings in manufacturing costs.

Tuesday's conference marked the winding up of the campaign and the committees concerned with materials handling and corrosion control, two of the constituent technologies. The participation of tribology and terotechnology in the campaign came to an end in 1974 and 1977 respectively.

A four to five-year education and training programme is to follow the conclusion of the campaign.

Cryer's duties undertaken by Huckfield

Bob Cryer resigned from the post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry on Monday (20 November).

His special responsibilities within the department for small firms and waste recycling are being undertaken by Les Huckfield, also Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the department.

Marine Pollution Control Unit director appointed

Rear Admiral Michael L. Stacey is to be director of the new Marine Pollution Control Unit in the marine division of the Department of Trade.

In reply to a parliamentary question on Monday, Secretary of State for Trade John Smith said the unit would have four main tasks: to ensure that the arrangements for using the resources available for dealing with oil pollution at sea were as effective as they could be; to develop a national plan, including measures to deal with other potential marine

pollutants such as chemicals and other dangerous cargoes; to relate these plans to those of neighbouring countries so as to provide as much mutual support as possible; and to take charge of operations at sea in the event of a marine pollution emergency in British waters.

Mr Smith added that Captain Ralph Maybourn, a director of BP Tanker Company, would serve part-time as a special adviser to the unit.

Largest post-war November drop in unemployment – Booth

'The fall in unemployment in November is nearly twice the size of last year's and it is the largest post-war November drop. Vacancies continue to rise as unemployment continues to decrease.' Commenting on the provisional figures for mid-November, employment secretary Albert Booth also said on Tuesday that it meant that government policies to fight unemployment were working. He was particularly pleased to see that amongst the school leavers the position was considerably better than last year with 16 500 fewer registered in the UK.

The total number of unemployed persons in Great Britain on 9 November was 1 330 794 representing 5.7 per cent of the total number of employees. This total includes 52 865 school leavers under 18 not yet employed.

The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of unemployed in Great Britain excluding the school leavers was 1 281 500 (5.5 per cent of all employees), a decrease of 18 200 since 12 October. In the last three months there has been a decrease on average of 16 500 a month.

The number of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain remaining unfilled on 3 November was 230 219, a decrease of 9678 since last month. The number of vacancies notified to careers offices was 27 404, a decrease of 1853 since last month. The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain was 229 900, an increase of 2900 since October.

Cigarette paper prices should be frozen

Rizla 'roll-your-own' cigarette paper and filter tip prices should be frozen until February next year – 13 months after the last increase – says the Price Commission in a report, published on Tuesday, on products manufactured by the General Paper and Box Manufacturing Company (GPBM) and marketed by Rizla.

GPBM and Rizla – which are jointly managed – are two profitable companies with a virtual monopoly – 98 per cent – in the UK supply of cigarette papers. Together with Rizla International (RIL), incorporated in Jersey, which handles their exports, and their French paper supplier, Lacroix Fils, they belong to an international group ultimately owned by Lacroix Fils (Belgium).

The commission notes that, after taking account of the effect of the recommended restrictions, GPBM/Rizla's forecast of overall net profit margins for 1979 would be around 18 per cent which the commission considers adequate. This compares with net margins of between 22 and 37 per cent earned in the years 1973 to 1977.

GPBM/Rizla are committed to a £1 million high-risk investment in cigarette tubes, due to be completed next year, which has significant implications for their cash flow. In the commission's view, the proposed restriction will still allow a reasonable contribution from trading profits to be made to this investment.

The commission notes that average dividends in excess of 60 per cent of after-tax profits were paid over the five years to 31 December 1977, and that the companies intended – as reflected in their forecasts for 1978 and 1979 – to maintain this level of dividend.

The commission says that in the circumstances of GPBM/Rizla's virtual monopoly 'it is all the more important to ensure that the prices of cigarette papers are set at a fair level. We consider that the restriction that we recommend, which defers price increases for a further three months, is a necessary protection to the customer'.

Management appointments

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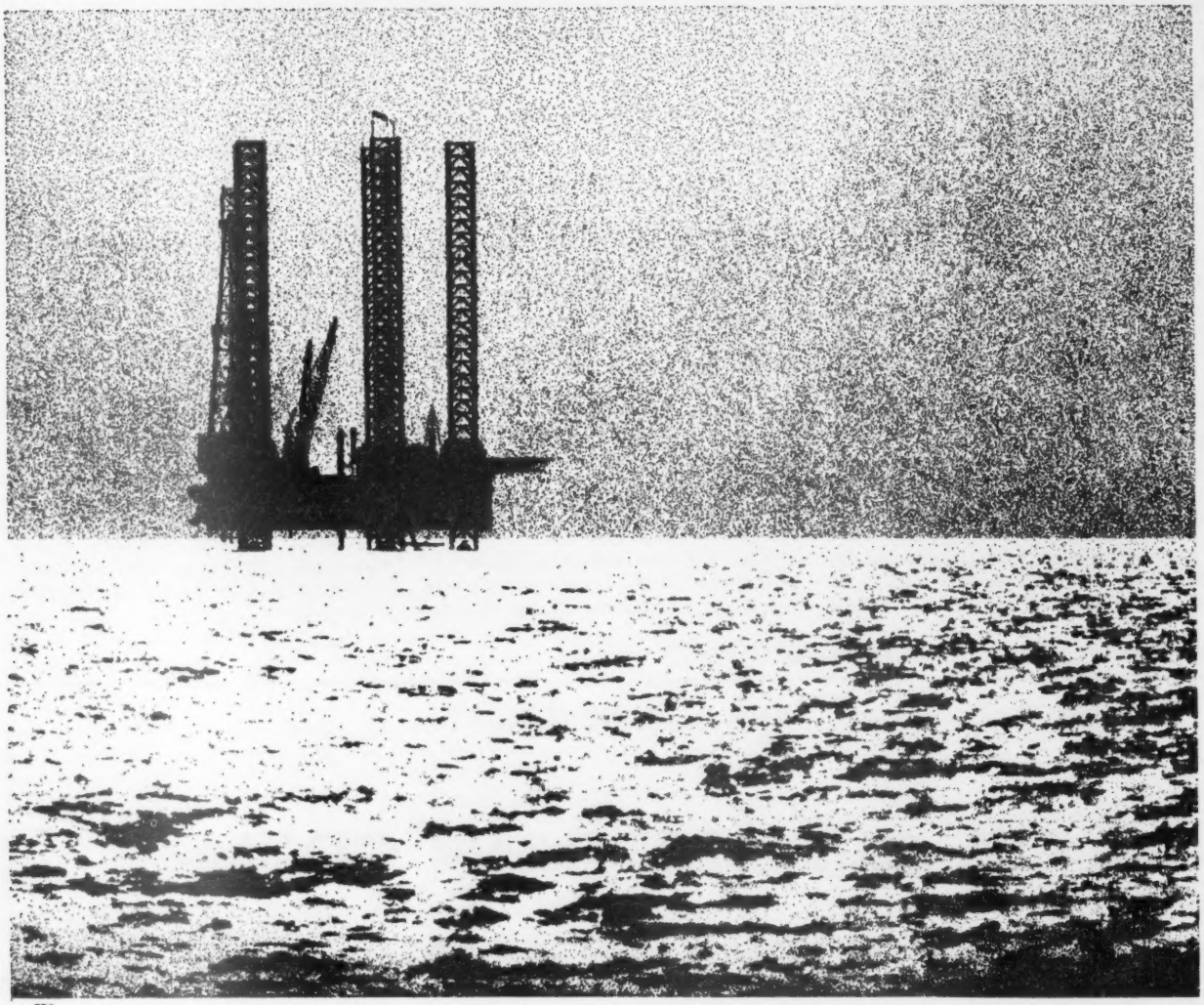

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Home news

Worcester takeover best alternative for KME

Proposals by Worcester Engineering Co Ltd to take over the Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co Ltd (KME) would best meet the objectives of maintaining the maximum number of jobs at KME. This was the conclusion that emerged from a working party report published on 16 November.

The working party was set up at the request of Mr Spriggs and Mr Jenkins, directors of KME, and its formation announced on 1 October by the Secretary of State for Industry. The objective was the maintenance of as many jobs as possible at KME.

The Kirkby factory has had an unsettled history since 1960. In 1974, its then tenant, IPD Industrial Co Ltd, ran into liquidity problems and a receiver was appointed. With government support, KME was incorporated as a new company and two of its trade union convenors, Mr Spriggs of the AUEW and Mr Jenkins of the TGWU, became its only directors. Since then, KME has operated as a co-operative, with Industry Act assistance totalling £4.7 million. It had consistently been unprofitable, and in the six months to September 1978, lost almost a further £700,000.

Proposals were considered from KME itself, which sought to continue as a co-operative, with £1.3 million provided either by the Department of Industry or the National Enterprise Board (NEB). The working party took the view that further support for KME should not be provided directly by the Department of Industry. The NEB's northwest regional board told the working party that it could not justify investing NEB funds in KME.

A number of companies had approached the working party about taking over KME as a going concern. Of these, only Worcester Engineering Co Ltd remained interested. Worcester Engineering intended to spend about £8 million to consolidate and develop its own existing business and that of KME. The working party considered Worcester's application under the criteria of the Industry Act. These require a substantial contribution from the private sector. Barclays Bank Ltd, Worcester's bankers, had agreed to meet Worcester's financing requirement in what the working party regarded as an acceptable way.

The working party proposed that the Department of Industry should provide Worcester with assistance of £3 million in cumulative redeemable preference shares. Since Worcester intended to invest at KME, it would automatically qualify for a regional development grant of some £680,000 and the working party proposed an interest relief grant of £500,000. These amounts were within the criteria of the Department of Industry.

Several companies had told the working party that they would be interested in KME's assets if a receiver were appointed. The working party noted that a receiver must accept the best financial offer he received. They could not guarantee that a particular proposal would be accepted by the receiver.

Therefore the working party concluded that the proposal from Worcester Engineering Co Ltd best met its objectives. Despite the risks in the proposal they recommended to the Secretary of State for Industry that it should be supported. The secretary of state has welcomed the working party's report.

The members of the working party are Professor D. C. Hague, deputy director, Manchester Business School, chairman; Mr J. Marsden, senior consultant, PA Management Consultants Ltd, nominated by KME; and Mr B. J. G. Hilton, assistant secretary, Department of Industry, nominated by the Secretary of State for Industry.

Modest upturn in inflation expected

Some modest upturn in inflation is to be expected next year, as the 12 per cent increase in unit labour costs in the last pay round works through into retail prices. This point was made by Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection Roy Hattersley commenting on the 7.8 per cent retail price index for October published on 17 November. Mr Hattersley said that this was made clear in the economic forecasts the government had published recently. It remained the case that the rate of inflation in 1979 and beyond was 'in our own hands', and that moderate wage settlements and tight financial policies remained the key to reducing inflation in the future, just as they had been in the dramatic reduction experienced in the last three years.

Mr Hattersley pointed out that when the rate of inflation, measured by the RPI, had been running at 7.9 per cent in June he had said that he expected it to settle at or about that level. For the rest of the year there might be small fluctuations from month to month, but no significant change of trend. As for the rate of inflation in 1979, he had said that it was still for the people of Britain to decide. There was the choice of an inflationary wage explosion, but the power of moderate pay settlements to bring the rate tumbling down had been proved.

His claims, though received with widespread scepticism at the time, had been borne out by events, and were confirmed by the RPI figures for October. The index had risen by less than ½ per cent in October and still stood only 7.8 per cent above the level a year earlier.

Advertising controls working well – Gordon Borrie

The self-regulatory system used by the advertising industry to ensure that printed advertisements are 'legal, decent, honest and truthful' is working well, but some improvements are clearly needed, said Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, on 16 November, announcing the results of an OFT survey on advertising. A detailed survey suggested that comprehensive legal controls were not needed, but felt the system would benefit if he had reserve powers to act quickly against the few undesirable advertisements which the present system failed to tackle effectively.

The survey report suggests that the director general should be given powers to seek a court injunction to stop publication of any advertisement which seriously breached the code of advertising practice. Mr Borrie explained that from the survey findings he could see no justification for drastic, new legislative controls, nor did he think it would help if the Advertising Standards Authority was to be made a statutory body – rather than improve the control system this could undermine the spirit which underlay the self-regulatory system, and the cost of the new body would have to be met by the taxpayer rather than by the industry as at present.

The report called for a statutory power which would enable him to take action against

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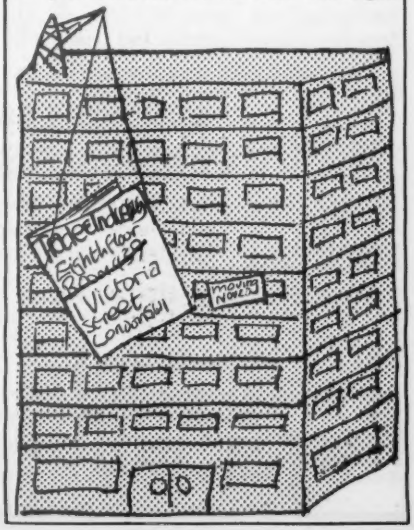

any misleading advertisement, swiftly and efficiently, to reinforce the position of the ASA in the few cases where this could not be achieved at present. That power should act as an incentive to everyone to follow the code. It would also cover the small number of advertisers who at present escape sanctions because, for example, their publisher did not belong to one of the associations which support the code.

The report criticises the length of time the ASA takes in dealing with complaints about advertisements. An examination of complaints received in November 1977 which were found by the ASA council to infringe the code, showed that delays were sometimes caused by advertisers failing to substantiate their claims promptly; and in some cases there were further administrative delays before the ASA council reached its decision. This meant that on occasions, where the publisher had not already taken action, offending advertisements continued to appear for a considerable time after a complaint had been made.

To reduce such delays the report suggests that where advertisers are aked to substantiate their claims, only 10 days should be allowed for their reply, after which the case should go to the council for a decision; cases should not be held up awaiting advertisers' comments on draft conclusions; the number of council members should be increased and complaints should be dealt with by smaller panels and more council decisions should be taken by post instead of waiting for the next meeting. It also recommends that 'stop' notices should be sent direct to publishers, as well as via their media associations.

German industrialists advised on investing in UK

Benefits to German companies in setting up manufacturing companies in Britain were discussed recently in Karlsruhe and Cologne.

On 16 November, the Department of Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau held a seminar in collaboration with the Südwestdeutschen Genossenschafts-Zentralbank AG at their premises in Karlsruhe. Speakers included Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State, Scottish Office; Steven Steiner, British vice-consul, Stuttgart; Mr W. J. Jones, Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, Cardiff; Hans-Peter Kochs, London and Continental Bankers Ltd and Herr P. Englert, Thyssen (Great Britain) Ltd.

Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, spoke to 50 Cologne industrialists on the investment climate in Great Britain at the invitation of the Bundersverband Der Deutschen Indústrie (BDF), on 21 November.

Both these events were organised as a result of the high level mission of German industrialists who visited the UK in October.

'Daily Telegraph' prices to be investigated

An investigation into a price increase proposed by The Daily Telegraph Ltd was announced by the Price Commission on 10 November. The company wanted to increase by 1p, from 9p to 10p, the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph*. After considering the proposed increase the commission decided that it should be the subject of an investigation under section 4 of the Price Commission Act 1977. The commission has notified the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection that it intends to investigate the increase. The investigation is due to be completed by 15 February next year.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the Price Commission in connection with this investigation should write to the Secretary, Price Commission, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NQ.

Hattersley considers report on books

A number of valuable pointers for the books trade has been noted by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, in announcing conclusions of his consideration of the Price Commission report into books. He commented that although the report contained no recommendations requiring statutory action by him, discussion of the document had brought out these points and it was for the trade to act on them.

The conclusions that the report had drawn about experiments in ways of passing on printed information and the need for a speedy and efficient physical distribution of books had been discussed with the Publishers' Association. It was clear from these discussions that the association was conscious of the changing pattern of demand for books and that there would need to be a continuing effort on the part of the trade in searching for new initiatives. In particular the need to improve distribution would be partially met, in large towns at least, by the recent contractual arrangement between the publishers' and booksellers' delivery service and the Post Office.

Wider controls for pre-packed goods' measures

A new system of control, effective from January 1980, over the weight and volume of most pre-packed goods is the main proposal in a bill published on 15 November.

Under the new system, sometimes called the 'average' system, legal responsibility for the contents of these packages will largely switch from the retailer to the manufacturer. Enforcement will take place at the packing stage of the production line, where inspection can be carried out on a proper statistical basis, with the same number of staff checking more packages.

The main benefit will be more extensive and effective control over the contents of packages in the interest of the consumer. At present the enforcement authorities check about 5½ million packages on a random basis, mainly in shops. Under the new system, inspection effort is switched to the manufacturers' filling-lines and there can be direct control over 180 million packages and indirect control through examination of quantity control procedures of the production of packages in this country.

For all goods weighed out for the customer (fresh meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, etc) and for 'catch-weight' packages (random-weight pieces of meat, cheese, etc) the existing system, usually known as the 'minimum' contents system, will remain in force.

Other benefits of the new system include the possibility of controlling for the first time certain products subject to weight variation through moisture loss, eg wines, pipe tobacco and knitting yarn.

Among other miscellaneous provisions, the bill will also make it clear that a pint of beer or cider must contain at least a pint of liquid regardless of froth. It is also proposed to take a power to phase out the use of brim measures (ie glasses that hold a pint or half-pint only when filled to the brim).

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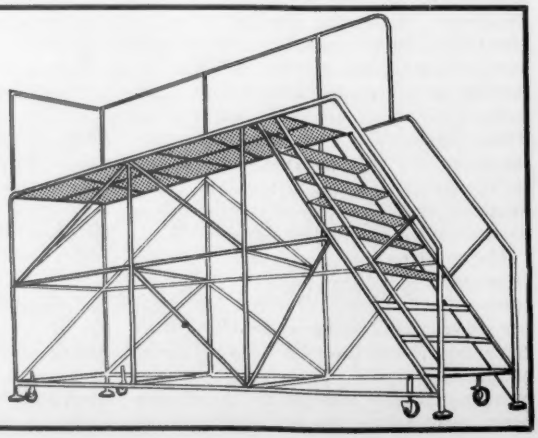

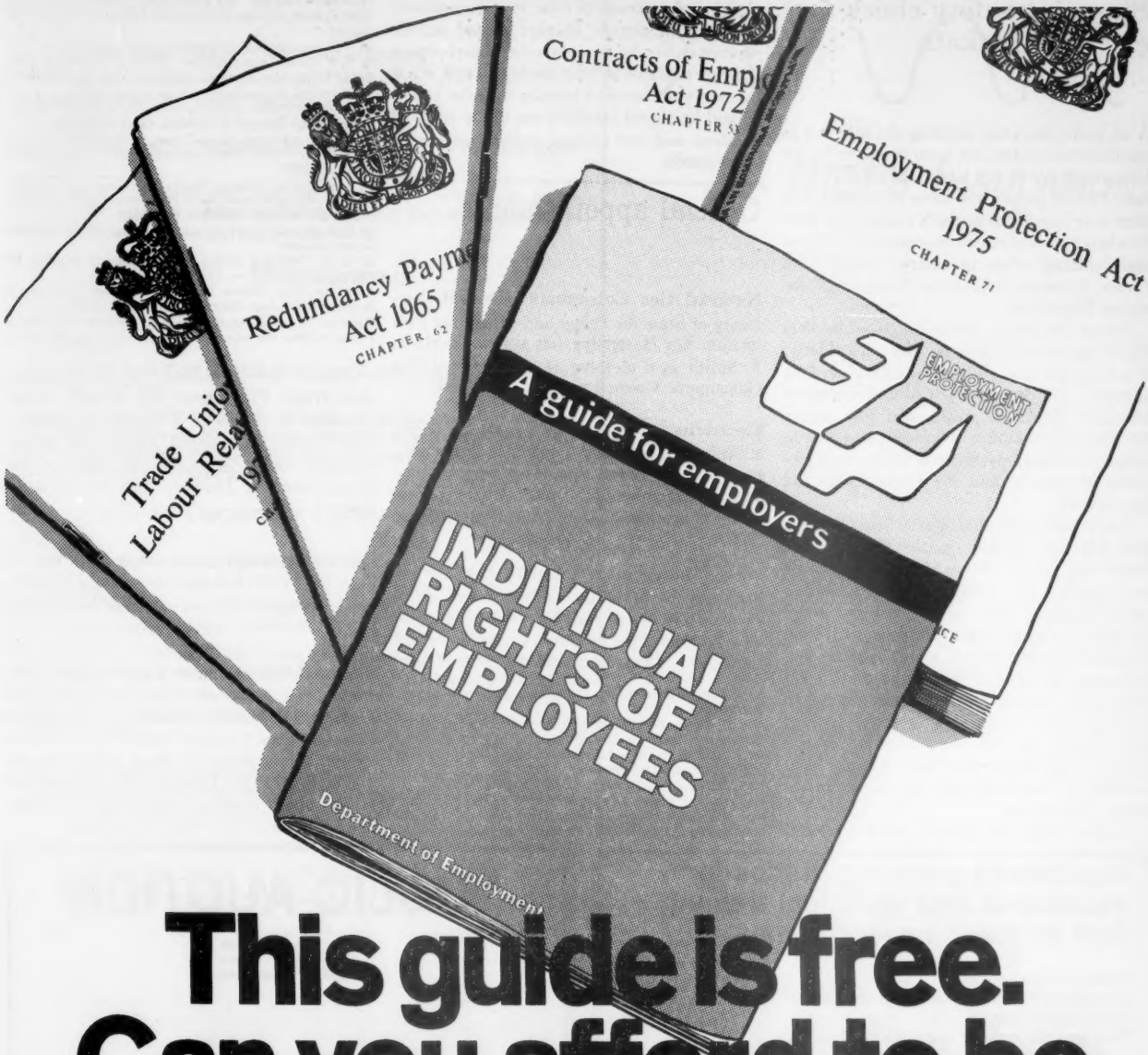

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Six-point safety check for electric blankets

A six-point check-list showing the safe way to use electric blankets has been prepared by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection. Elderly people and those concerned with their care should particularly ensure that their blankets are used correctly, regularly serviced and replaced when necessary,' urged John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

About 20 people die every year in fires involving electric blankets. Most are elderly. Fire brigades deal with up to 1500 such fires annually. The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances last winter investigated the causes of these fires, in consultation with the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and the Home Office fire department.

The results indicated that at least half the fires followed serious misuse of a blanket, including failure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. In some cases, pre-heating under-blankets had been used as over-blankets; in other cases blankets had been switched on when folded; again blankets had been severely creased in storage and in yet other cases rucked because the tie tapes had not been used. The investigation also showed that almost all the fires involved under-blankets and that most of them had not been serviced as recommended in the manufacturers' instructions.

Anyone using an electric blanket should remember that it is an electrical appliance and that it is dangerous to treat it as an ordinary blanket. An electric blanket should not be washed unless the manufacturers' instructions indicate that this will not damage it and, if it is necessary to remove a blanket from the bed, it should be stored carefully out of the reach of children and not packed under bedding or other goods.

Official appointments

National Gas Consumers' Council. Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Roy Hattersley, has appointed Mr G. F. Smith as a member of the National Gas Consumers' Council until 30 June 1981.

Electricity Consultative Council. Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Roy Hattersley, has appointed Mrs V. Jennings as a member of the South Western Electricity Consultative Council until 31 August 1980.

Waste Management Council. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry and Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment have appointed the following to be members of the Waste Management Advisory Council:

Mr J. J. Benn, chairman and chief executive, Reed Paper and Board Ltd
Mr J. M. Bissett, director, James Moores Ltd, president British Reclamation Industries Confederation
Mr R. Bottini, former general secretary, National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers
Mr T. Burke, executive director, Friends of the Earth
Mr J. R. Crane, assistant managing director, IMI Ltd. Past president of British Non-Ferrous Metals Federation
Lord Darling of Hillsborough, member of parliament for Hillsborough (Sheffield) 1950-74, Minister of State, Board of Trade 1964-68
Janet Graham, member of the National Federation of Consumer Groups
Mr V. C. Hender, managing director, United Glass Ltd
Mr D. B. Huffam, vice chairman, Metal Box Ltd and chairman, British Tin Box Manufacturers Federation, member of the industry committee for packaging and the environment
Mr T. Middlebrooke, works manager, refuse disposal department, London Borough of Camden, member of Nalgo
Mr C. Mort, managing director, Thos. W. Ward Ltd
Mr J. Skitt, county waste disposal engineer, Staffordshire County Council
Mr E. V. Southam, director, Dickinson Robinson Group, chairman CBI industrial waste panel and member of CBI environmental and technical legislation committee
Mr G. A. Thomas, chief environment officer, South Yorkshire County Council
Dr G. H. Thomson, former administrative co-ordinator BP Chemicals Ltd
Councillor Rear Admiral R. C. P. Wainwright, member of Stratford-upon -Avon District Council, Warwickshire
Baroness White, president, Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, member, Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Robert Berry, director of the National Anti-Waste Programme will attend council meetings ex officio as a ministerial adviser. The council is chaired jointly by parliamentary under-Secretaries of State at the Departments of Industry and the Environment.

Private Secretary. John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Terry Walker, MP (Kingswood), as his parliamentary private secretary.

National Film Finance Corporation. John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Mamoun Hassan as managing director of the National Film Finance Corporation, for a period of three years from 15 January 1979. Mr Hassan, who has been an NFFC board member since May 1978, succeeds Sir John Terry who is retiring.

Equipment planning guides for vocational and technical training and education programmes.

Guides already available:
Machining and fitting occupations (No. 1)
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Tool and die making occupations (No. 2)
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Welding occupations (No. 3)
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Sheet metal occupations (No. 4)
ISBN 92-2-101892-X
Automotive occupations (No. 5)
ISBN 92-2-101863-6
Plumbing/pipe fitting occupations (No. 6)
ISBN 92-2-101893-8
Electrical occupations (No. 9)
ISBN 92-2-101885-7
Radio and television repair (No. 11)
ISBN 92-2-101895-4
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ISBN 92-2-101895-4

Price for each volume: SF45.00. $22.45. £11.25
Further Guides are in preparation.
These planning guides will save time and effort for planners, buyers and sellers of equipment in both developing and industrialised countries. They contain illustrated lists of equipment, model workshop layouts, common conversion factors, price lists and alphabetical indexes of item captions in English, French and Spanish. Neutral specifications have been given for all items of equipment in order to ensure fairness in international competitive bidding.

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

BRISTOL

A public auction sale of surplus government furniture and equipment has been arranged at the DOE PSA Supplies Store, Bay 5, Ashton Vale Road, Bristol, Avon BS3 2HJ. The sale will commence at 10.00 hours on the 29 November 1978 and viewing will be allowed from 10.00 to 16.00 hours on the day previous.

The auctioneers are Messrs. Stanley, Alder and Price, 7 St. Stephens Street, Bristol, Avon BS1 1EG, telephone 0272 299151 and catalogues will be available directly from them, price 15p.

Government sales

29 November 1978 – Miscellaneous

Location:
The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8

Auctioneer:
Bartle and Son (Dept L), 1a Bridge Street, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire (0937 835303)

Stores lying in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire including machine tools, motor spares, vehicles, tyres, wireless equipment, clothing, blankets, carpets, furniture and householdware and many other items.

7 December 1978 – Miscellaneous

Location:
Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling

Auctioneers:
Dixon and Wallace (Dept L). Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (041-554 2447)

Stores lying in Scotland including clothing and textiles, footwear, furniture and household effects, electrical and electronic stores, scrap metal, MT spares, mobile cranes, machine tools, heavy recovery vehicles, Landrovers, saloon cars and other vehicles.

12, 13 and 14 December 1978 – Vehicles

Location:
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers:
Walker, Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham (0602 54272)

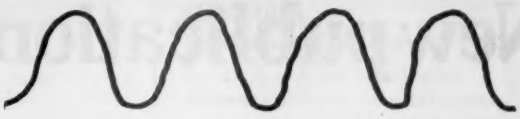
Morris 1000s, Travellers, 1880s, Minis, Ford Escort estates and a variety of other saloon cars. Bedford and Morris minibuses, Landrovers, Bedford RL and TK trucks, Austin K9 signals vans, coaches, trailers, fork-lift trucks, cranes, Albion machinery trucks and Caterpillar D8 tractors, snowplough and many other items.

Catalogues, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 40p, postage 15p.

WEMBLEY AUCTION SALES 1978

5 DECEMBER

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Stores India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Miscellaneous office equipment and furniture etc. (Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available from the auctioneers, price 20p.)
Auctioneers:	Messrs Hollingsworth Westcombe House 56/58 Whitcomb Street Leicester Square London WC2H 7DR Tel. 01-839 1875



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New publications

Selection of publications for review on this page does not necessarily reflect the views of the government, nor do the opinions expressed. Inquiries about this page and submissions for review should be sent to *Trade and Industry*, New Publications Page, Room 725, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB, tel. 01-215 4267.

Consumer affairs

Telling industry about the consumer . . .

Sometimes a book written for a specific and limited market becomes more widely known because of the standing of its writers and the way they treat their subject. 'Marketing and the Consumer Movement', edited by Jeremy Mitchell for McGraw-Hill, is just such a book in the rapidly expanding 'consumerism' literature.

Twenty-three authors, almost all of them very well known in the field, cover the consumer movement, the response of industry and trade, codes of practice, advertising and the consumer and international developments, together with a very extensive 15 page annotated bibliography.

There is a great deal of information of general interest in the book and particularly on such topics as 'Local advice for consumers', 'Nationalised industry consumer council', 'Handling consumer complaints', and two chapters on specific trade associations (one of which is the Motor Agents Association).

Sir John Methven, who was the first Director General of Fair Trading, probably echoes the sentiments of most readers when he says in his foreword: 'Despite all the efforts of the past, however, there remains a big communications job for us all to tackle. Too many consumers still remain suspicious and cynical about business practice, and too many businessmen still see consumerism as a threat. I am sure that this new book will help us all in our efforts to overcome this.'

Marketing and the Consumer Movement; edited by Jeremy Mitchell. McGraw-Hill Book Co (UK) Ltd (in association with the Institute of Marketing and the Office of Fair Trading), 1978. xiii, 299 pages. £9.95 (ISBN 0 07 084514 X).

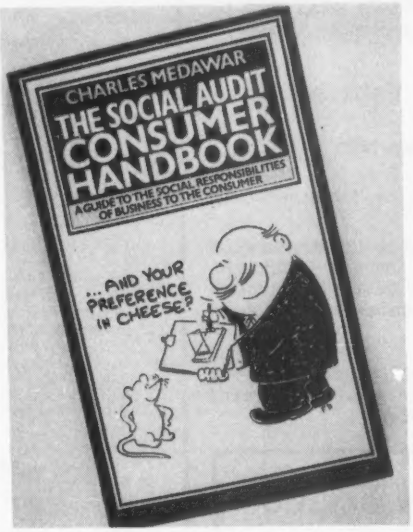
. . . and the consumer about industry

One of the foremost among the consumer and ecological pressure groups that have increased markedly in numbers in recent years is Social Audit.

Social Audit says that while the public may not know enough to become experts they should have the information to allow them to evaluate the advice given by experts. This involves the contentious point of open access to company information. So in two new books Social Audit considers two aspects of the 'social audit' – similar in principle to the financial audit, providing information for anyone affected by what a company does.

Charles Medawar, in his book 'The Social Audit consumer handbook', looks at the consumer side. He begins with a cynical survey of the current moral and legal responsibilities of industry towards the consumer, and then, in a useful chapter, indicates the information necessary for the ordinary consumer to conduct a 'social audit'.

The second part of the book discusses the manufacture and marketing of products. And


CHARLES MEDAWAR
THE SOCIAL AUDIT CONSUMER HANDBOOK
A GUIDE TO THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESS TO THE CONSUMER
...AND YOUR PREFERENCE IN CHEESE?

though he covers a lot of material given in more detail elsewhere, the author includes original and useful checklists of points to look for.

The second volume is aimed, in particular, at the factory worker, and looks at the pollution side of the social audit. It covers air and water pollution both inside and outside factories and provides considerable information on health hazards and the means of investigating them. The book concludes with a pollution-questionnaire.

Both books give wide ranging references including government publications and offer helpful lists of sources and means of obtaining publications.

The Social Audit and Consumer Handbook: a guide to the social responsibilities of business to the consumer, by Charles Medawar. Macmillan, 1978. x, 154 pages; paperback, £3.95 (ISBN 0 333 21666 0); hardback, £8.95 (ISBN 0 333 21665 2).

The Social Audit Pollution Handbook: how to assess environment and workplace pollution, by Maurice Frankel. Macmillan, 1978. v, 210 pages; paperback, £3.95 (ISBN 0 333 21647 4); hardback, £10.00 (ISBN 0 333 21646 6).

Giving credit its due

Over 100 000 businesses which supply goods and services on credit, or which arrange credit and loan facilities for their customers, are affected by the 1974 Consumer Credit Act. So there is a need for an authoritative manual to give those whom the act affects day-to-day understanding of it. Francis Bennion's 'Consumer Credit Act manual' is intended to be just that book.

Although primarily intended as a working manual for business people, the book is a useful guide for anyone, including the lawyer, who needs to understand the act. Francis Bennion was the draftsman of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, and is also the author of the comprehensive looseleaf work 'Consumer credit control' (Oyez, 1976).

He has so arranged the manual that each section on a particular type of credit business is complete in itself. The reader has only to look up the section with which he is immediately concerned, to find a plain-English explanation of all the provisions which affect his business now, and will do so in the future as further provisions of the act come into operation.

There are sections on consumer credit and hire business, credit and line brokerage, debt counselling, debt adjusting and debt collecting, credit reference agencies, the licensing system and enforcement machinery.

There is a helpful appendix of terms, lists of regulations and orders, exemptions, official publications, and official addresses. In short, this neat and concise paperback would seem to be an indispensible guide to those affected by the act.

The Consumer Credit Act manual, by Francis Bennion. Oyez Publishing Ltd, 1978. ix, 166 pages; paperback, £6.00 (ISBN 0 85120 370 1).

The consumers' protection

Riding to the consumers' rescue, wading through the mass of laws, services and remedies, comes the modern Sir Galahad – the trading standards' officer.

In a new paperback, 'The Consumer Adviser', two senior consumer protection officers sing the praises of this complex and recently glamourised profession.

The authors start with a survey of economic and social conditions from 1930 onwards, and then give a short history of the growth of the consumer movement. Their idiosyncratic style may irritate some, but the approach certainly makes for comparatively easy reading in a potentially difficult field. And so the more detailed review of consumer law backed by case law and examples, which constitutes the bulk of the text, is not too forbidding.

The book provides a guide to layman and lawyer – in fact to all who have to find an answer to consumer problems within the confines of present legislation.

The Consumer Adviser, by Gordon Smith and Alan J. Street; edited by J. T. Graham. Institute of Trading Standards Administration, Estate House, 319D London Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2BN. 1978. 201 pages; paperback. £3.50 (including postage and packing) (ISBN 0 901340 11 1).

Parliament

Monday, 13 November

Grants to English regions

Walter Clegg (North Fylde) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would make grants to the English regions, pro rata, similar to the grants to Scottish and Welsh development agencies.

Mr Cryer replied that expenditure on regional development grants and regional selective assistance depended upon the number of eligible applications together with the rates of assistance in force in the assisted areas concerned. There was no predetermined allocation of funds to individual assisted areas.

Estimated expenditure in south-west and Wales

John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would state the total amount of industrial development aid from the central government to Cornwall and Wales, respectively, both absolutely and per head of the insured population, in the latest financial year.

Mr Cryer explained that the information was not available in precisely the form requested, but gave the following information:

Estimates of the expenditure on assistance to industry in the south-west assisted areas and Wales during the 1977-78 financial year are as follows:

	1977-78
South-west assisted areas	
Total expenditure [1]	£ 9 million
Per capita of insured population	30.67
Wales	
Total expenditure [1]	£91.4 million
Per capita of insured population	85.02

[1] This expenditure includes regional development grants, regional selective financial assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, and Local Employment Act assistance.

In addition under the various schemes of selective assistance to industry operating under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 the following sums were offered in aggregate to companies in the south-west assisted areas and Wales:

£ million

	1977-78
South-west assisted areas	2.3
Wales	1.3

Regional grants in west Midlands

Michael Spicer (South Worcestershire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he proposed to take to ensure that the policy of regional grants ceased to discriminate against the west Midlands.

Mr Cryer said that the west Midlands continued to benefit from national schemes of selective assistance and through the NEB. For example under the ferrous foundry industry scheme over £20 million more than 25 per cent of aid under this scheme had been offered to firms in the west Midlands although the region's proportion of the working population was below 10 per cent. In addition the region had derived considerable benefit from public funds committed to British Leyland, Alfred Herbert, Chrysler (UK) and Meriden. Though the worldwide recession had affected all parts of the country including the west Midlands the regions of greatest need ought to have special financial help.

Chrysler UK planning agreement

David Madel (South Bedfordshire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what information as to the investment intentions of Peugeot-Citroen in relation to the Chrysler commercial vehicle plants at Dunstable and Luton he had received in pursuance of the planning agreement.

Mr Williams replied that substantial investment was continuing at the commercial vehicle plants at Luton and Dunstable in accordance with the plans which had been agreed between the government and CUK. There had been no change in these plans on which UK assistance was based. Peugeot-Citroen's declaration of intent contained clear assurances about the future use of all CUK's facilities, including the commercial vehicle plants.

Industrial investment

David Knox (Leek) asked what was the level of industrial investment in the most recent year for which figures were available, and what was the comparable figure for 1973.

Mr Cryer replied that total investment by manufacturing industry in 1977 was estimated to have been £3,573 million at 1975 prices, the comparable figure for 1973 is £3,504 million.

Wharton Cranes

Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what progress he had made in discussions to help Wharton Cranes of Reddish, Stockport.

Mr Cryer said that the secretary of state had discussed the problem of Wharton Cranes with the minister of state and representatives of the management and trade unions on 3 November and subsequent discussions had been held involving the NEB. Before deciding what assistance could be offered to minimise the loss of jobs, the department was awaiting the specific proposal being prepared by the company.

Industrial strategy

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was his estimate of the number of jobs created or likely to be created by his Industrial Strategy, how many had been preserved during the same period by his policy of rescuing companies which were not within the industrial strategy.

Mr Williams said that the government's Industrial Strategy was a long term programme for improving the productivity and competitiveness of the whole of British manufacturing industry. It was not practicable to assess the employment impact of the wide range of the government's measures taken to this end. It had been calculated that during the period of the Industrial Strategy, projects assisted under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 had involved the creation of nearly 150 000 new jobs and the safeguarding of a further 90 000 jobs. The accelerated projects scheme, selective investment scheme and 15 sectoral schemes involved the safeguarding of many thousands of jobs.

Wool industry water and effluent charges

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he was taking to assist the woollen industry with water and effluent charges.

Mr Cryer replied that he was actively examining with the industry how modernisation and the use of new techniques for wool scouring could reduce costs of water and trade effluent treatment. On 23 October he said that he had met representatives of the industry to discuss the situation outlined in the recent report on water and trade effluent charges in Yorkshire. He was currently engaged in discussions with the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment regarding the industry.

Buying British

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would issue further guidance to public and private sector industry on the need to buy British.

Mr Cryer replied that through the department's general sponsorship role all sectors of industry should be well aware of the government's views that they should buy British wherever possible. Terms of membership of the EEC and other international obligations such as the general agreement on tariffs and trade (Gatt) did not permit a requirement to buy British as a condition of government assistance. However all applications were encouraged to seek UK tenders and were made aware of suitable UK sources, if they were not already aware of such sources.

Kirkby Co-operative

Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was now the total amount of public money lent, promised, or given to the Kirkby Co-operative.

Mr Cryer said that his department had made three separate amounts of assistance available to Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co Ltd under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. The then secretary of state had announced to the house in November 1974 a £3.9 million grant, and the secretary of state had subsequently announced in April 1977 a further grant of £860,000. It had also recently been agreed to make available to the company temporary assistance of up to £150,000 to cover their losses while a working party considered ways of preserving employment at the factory. The secretary of state had made it clear that if the proposals met the Industry Act criteria, he would exercise his powers to the fullest extent that they were available under the Industry Act to give effect to the working party's recommendation. (See page 377.)

Cutlery and flatware industry

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what progress he was now making with the survey of the cutlery and flatware industry in conjunction with the Cutlery and Allied Trades Research Association, what proposals he had to assist in the modernisation of the industry, including capital investment programmes, and whether there had been any positive outcome to approaches to the commission of the EEC.

Mr Cryer said that the survey of the cutlery and flatware industry, in which his department had assisted, had been completed. The results would be considered by a working party consisting of an independent chairman and representatives of both sides of the industry, the Sheffield City Council and his department. The working party would examine ways in which the industry's performance and competitiveness might be improved, and the government would consider its recommendations most carefully. Mr Cryer added that no approaches to the EEC commission had been made since that to which he had referred in the adjournment debate on 24 July and which had led to the imposition of surveillance licensing for all imports of cutlery and flatware into the United Kingdom from outside the EEC.

Special steel production

Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was his estimate of the prospects for special steel production in the United Kingdom during the next three years.

Mr Huckfield pointed out that much would depend on the general economic situation and on whether UK producers could recapture some of the large share taken by imports of the home market for high speed steels, tool steels and stainless steel bar. The government was making every effort to help on this. The recent increase in imports of special steels

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer *
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: John Smith
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

* Mr Cryer resigned on 20 November.

from EEC member states posed a particular problem. It was of course impossible to take unilateral action against imports from another member state and accordingly, his department was in close touch with the European commission as to how this problem could best be tackled. Prospects were better for stainless steel flat products where major investment, recently completed by the British Steel Corporation, would help meet competition from imports and expand exports.

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what representations he had received about the current situation in the special steel industry.

Mr Huckfield said that the Secretary of State had received representations from the public and private sectors of the industry, from MPs and representative bodies in the Sheffield area, from the Nedo iron and steel sector working party and from the trade unions. He and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of Trade, had met a delegation led by the member for Sheffield Heeley on 6 November. The secretary of state had held a further meeting on 8 November with representatives of the British Independent Steel Producers Association, the Nedo sector working party, the trades unions and the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce. He was also continuing in close touch with the European commission on the situation.

John Ellis (Brigg and Scunthorpe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what representations he had received concerning the high level of imports of steel.

Mr Huckfield said that the secretary of state had received representations from both the public and private sectors of the steel industry and was in close contact with them and with the European commission on this subject.

Unemployment in the clothing industry

Albert Roberts (Normanton) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what steps he proposed to take to assist the 19 000 unemployed textile workers in the Leeds area, and to bring about a complete refurbishing of the textile industry.

Mr Cryer said that it had not been possible to identify the figure of unemployed, but thought that the questioner might have in mind employment in the clothing firms in Leeds. The clothing industry had suffered from increasing competition from imports mainly from east Europe and the Far East and also from a fashion change away from formal suits. The UK had taken the lead during the renegotiation of the multifibre arrangement last year in insisting on more effective protection for the industry and now virtually all low-cost imports were subject to actual or potential restraint. In addition £15 million had been made available under the clothing industry scheme to the industry to encourage modernisation and re-equipment to assist them to compete against imports and to develop exports. Clothing firms in the Leeds area were eligible for selective financial assistance under the Industry Act.

Future of cobalt supplies

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what representations he had had from the industries using cobalt about future supplies, bearing in mind dependence on the copper industries of Zambia and Zaire, and whether he had been able to take initiatives with the European Economic Community, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States of America and the appropriate international organisations to review the situation.

Mr Cryer replied that industries using cobalt had explained to him the importance of securing future supplies of cobalt. His department was considering urgently what help it could give. So far no formal initiatives had been taken with the bodies named, though some informal approaches had been made.

Employment in Consett and Stanley

David Watkins (Consett) asked what measures were being taken to increase male employment opportunities in Consett and Stanley, County Durham, and how many men and how many women were employed in government-provided factories in Consett and Stanley, County Durham, at the latest available date.

Mr Cryer said that as parts of the north-east special development area, Consett and Stanley were among those places benefitting from the highest levels of regional assistance within Great Britain. This assistance encouraged the creation of new jobs and the safeguarding of existing employment for both males and females. In addition male and female jobs were supported by the special employment measures administered by the Secretary of State for Employment. In September 1978 there were 480 men and 168 women employed in the Consett factories and 288 men and 390 women in those in Stanley.

Utilisation of sperm oil in leather industry

Raphael Tuck (Watford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what studies he had made of the extent of the use of sperm oil in manufacturing processes; and if the presence of sperm oil was readily detectable in leathers.

Mr Cryer replied that in 1975 his department had commissioned the British Leather Manufacturer's Research Association to carry out a study into the properties of sperm oil and its application in the leather industry, culminating in the publication of a report in July 1976 entitled 'The Utilisation of Sperm Oil in the Leather Industry'. The BLMRA had been engaged in a further research programme funded by the garment and allied industries requirements board. It was nearly always possible to determine the presence of sperm oil in leathers; its presence could only be detected with reasonable certainty if the lubricant used to treat a leather contained a sufficient amount of sperm oil.

Planning agreements

Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would make a statement on the progress of the planning agreement system; how many such voluntary agreements had been concluded; and with which firms.

Mr Williams said that progress in concluding formal planning agreements had been slow. So far two had been signed, the first with Chrysler (UK) Ltd, and the second with the National Coal Board.

Information from the Patent Office

Bruce Douglas-Mann (Merton, Mitcham and Morden) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had received from the member for Merton, Mitcham and Morden concerning the availability of information valuable to terrorists at the Patent Office; and what action he was taking in the light of such representations.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he had received a letter on 14 October drawing his attention to an article in the *New Scientist* of 12 October 1978 discussing the availability to the public, through UK and foreign patent specifications, of information which could be used by terrorists; certain noxious chemical substances were particularly referred to in the article. The UK patent specifications for the most recently patented substances concerned had not been freely available from the Patent Office or in UK public libraries since 1975. He understood that the British Library had withdrawn from access equivalent foreign specifications and had drawn them to the attention of the other UK public libraries known to hold foreign specifications. The comptroller-general of the Patent Office had also written to these libraries. All new patent applications filed at the Patent Office were scrutinised to detect those which contained information which might be prejudicial to the safety of the public; publication of this information might be prohibited or restricted under section 22 of the Patents Act 1977.

Imports of vehicle light bulbs

Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would list the level of imports for 1970, 1976, 1977 and 1978 to date of vehicle light bulbs.

Mr Meacher said that information on 'filament lamps not exceeding 28 V, motor vehicle types' was available under SITC (R) sub-group 729.2 in volume II of the *Annual Statement of Overseas Trade of the United Kingdom* for the year 1970, table IV of the 1976 and 1977 annual editions of the *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, and under SITC (Rev 2) item 778.21 of the September issue for 1978 to date.

Traffic at Prestwick Airport

Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement about the future operations of Pan Am Airways at Prestwick Airport; what recent representations he has received on the future of Prestwick Airport; and if he will make a statement in view of current disquiet about the continuation of operations at Prestwick.

Mr Clinton Davis said that Pan American Airways had yet to make a final decision but it seemed probable that they would cease to serve Prestwick with all-cargo services from 1 February 1979. This was entirely a commercial decision by the airline which had the necessary authorisations from the Department of Trade to operate both passenger and cargo services at Prestwick. He said that he had received a deputation including members of parliament, representatives of Stratchclyde regional council and others concerned with Prestwick Airport, on 21 September 1978. He had reaffirmed the government's conclusions in the Airports Policy White Paper (Cmnd 7084) that existing policies on the allocation of traffic among the three Scottish lowland airports, including Prestwick, should be generally maintained.

Aircraft movements

Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how much more often runway 28L at Heathrow had been used for aircraft movements at night compared with runway 28R during the last month, the last three months and the last six months; what were the total number of aircraft movements at night during these periods; and how many times during the last six months runway 28L at Heathrow had been used for the 24-hour period commencing at 1500 hours on the Sunday; and what were the comparable figures for runway 28R.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the number of aircraft movements on runways 28L and 28R at Heathrow between 2300 hours and 0700 hours during the periods in question were as follows:

	Oct 1978	Aug-Oct 1978	May-Oct 1978
Runway 28L	589	1 910	3 188
Runway 28R	157	622	1 501
Total movements	850	2 843	5 544

He added that during the six months ending 31 October there had been five occasions on which runway 28L had been used for landings, virtually without interruption, throughout the 24 hours period commencing at 1500 hours on Sunday. There were no occasions on which runway 28R had been similarly used.

Search and rescue around Shetland

Iain Sproat (Aberdeen South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement about the future of the search and rescue operations around Shetland.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he hoped shortly to announce the establishment of a dedicated long range search and rescue helicopter facility in the Shetlands, capable of a quicker response to distress calls originating in the sea areas north and east of the islands than had been possible hitherto.

Entry clearance at Heathrow

Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had made to the British Airports Authority about the conditions in which non-United Kingdom travellers arriving at Heathrow Airport were obliged to wait for entry clearance by the immigration authorities.

Mr Clinton Davis said that following discussions involving the chairmen of the British Airports Authority and the British Tourist Authority, he and Home Office colleagues, the Immigration Service and the British Airports Authority were considering ways in which the conditions at Heathrow and Gatwick might be improved. Efforts to minimise delays by the provision of more staff had been made and further measures were under consideration.

Display of petrol prices

Arnold Shaw (Redbridge, Ilford South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would amend the Petrol Prices (Display) Order 1978 to make it a compulsory requirement on all garages to advertise prices or price reductions that were visible from the road.

Mr Maclennan said that his department's objective in introducing the Petrol Prices (Display) Order 1977 had been to ensure that, when garages chose to display prices at the roadside, the consumer would not be misled. This had been achieved. When a garage did not so display its prices the consumer was well able to draw his own conclusions about the likely level of prices at that garage.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Imports of blankets

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he was satisfied with the increase of blankets imported into the United Kingdom from Czechoslovakia, Spain, West Germany, Italy and Portugal, between 1975 and 1978; if he would provide figures, by volume and value, of such imports in each year between 1975 and 1978; and if he would take action to reduce the level of imported blankets, especially from the countries named; he asked what representations had been received from the Blanket Manufacturer's Association or others about increasing imports of blankets, especially from Czechoslovakia, Spain, West Germany, Italy and Portugal; what representations had been made by the Department of Trade; and what action he intended to take.

Mr Meacher gave the information in the table.

Mr Meacher said that no representations had been received from the Blanket Manufacturer's Association or other sources about increasing imports of blankets. Imports of blankets from Czechoslovakia were subject to quota restrictions. Blankets were covered by category 66 of the MFA, a less sensitive group III product. There were at present no quota restrictions on any of the MFA bilateral or low-cost Mediterranean sources. Restrictions on West Germany or Italy would of course be precluded since they were EEC member states. Subject to representations being received, he said that he had at present no plans to introduce further restrictions.

UK import of blankets

Country	1975		1976		1977		Jan-Sep 1978	
	Tonnes	£'000	Tonnes	£'000	Tonnes	£'000	Tonnes	£'000
Czechoslovakia	459	278	429	294	461	415	419	330
Spain	144	174	118	168	131	249	255	408
Portugal	194	227	82	97	50	74	132	251
West Germany	70	135	101	324	122	476	140	569
Italy	12	19	32	57	78	157	122	213
Total	879	833	762	940	842	1 371	1 068	1 771

Technology to contract oil pollution

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the difference in the technology offered to his department by Oil Recovery International of Christchurch, Dorset, and Oil Mop Incorporated of New Orleans, Louisana, United States of America; which individuals of his department conducted negotiations in dealing with the subsidiary of Oil Mop Incorporated.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he had understood that the insurers of the *Eleni V*, on the advice of the international tanker owners pollution federation, contracted with OMI Ltd to supply and operate, with the agreement of Waveney District Council, the 'Oil Mop' devices in question off north Lowestoft beach. The government had not been involved in the negotiations of this contract. The devices available from Oil Mop (UK) Ltd and from OMI Ltd were based on very much the same technological principles. They were suitable for use close inshore in sheltered waters: consequently, his department, which was responsible for dealing with oil at sea, was unlikely to have occasion to make use of them.

Chairman of electricity councils

Philip Holland (Carlton) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would list the names of the chairmen of the area electricity consultative councils in England and Wales and in each case the date of appointment, the full-time employment and other official appointments held.

Mr Hattersley gave the following information:

Name of chairman	Name of council	Date when first appointed	Main employment (a) Official appointments held (b)
J. Bradshaw	North Eastern	1.3.78	(a) Senior lecturer at York University
Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, DBE	South Eastern	1.10.72	No full-time employment. (a) Chairman, Bloodstock and Racehorse Industries Confederation Ltd. (b) Chairman, Review of Tourist Board Publications; Member, Cinematograph Films Council; Horserace Totalisator Board; Legal Aid Advisory Committee; Metrication Board; Steering Committee for Distribution and Consumers Interests; Post Office Users' National Council
Lord Taylor	North Western	1.10.77	(a) Executive with Shorrock Security Systems
F. A. W. Pannell, JP	South Western	15.8.76	(a) Area Organiser, Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers
D. T. King	London	8.5.77	(a) Principal lecturer in public sector economics
Mrs Moyra Haynes	Southern	10.8.78	(a) Area organiser of the National Federation of Consumer Groups (part-time)
D. Webster	Yorkshire	18.1.74	(a) Group supplies manager of the Tinsley Wire Industries Group of companies of Sheffield
C. R. W. Grantham	East Midlands	1.10.72	(a) Adviser on Industrial Legislation to the Alexander Shand (Holdings) Ltd group of companies, a part-time appointment
Leonard V. Pike	Midlands	1.1.66	(a) Trade union official. (b) Chairman of West Midlands Transport Users' Consultative Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Council
Mrs Ann Maree Rees	South Wales	1.10.77	(a) Lecturer in physical and materials science at Llandaff College of Education. (b) Member of Welsh Consumer Council and Member of Post Office Users' Council for Wales and the Consumer Committee of the Meat and Livestock Commission
Mrs K. Moody	Eastern	30.9.78	(a) Checker for *Which* magazine projects (part-time)
M. J. Moore, OBE	Merseyside and North Wales	1.10.75	(a) Retired former senior lecturer in physics at Liverpool University

OECD retail prices

Timothy Smith (Ashfield) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would list in ascending order the percentage change in food prices from February 1974 to the latest available date in Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and West Germany; if he would list in ascending order the percentage change in consumer prices from February 1974 to the latest available date in Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and West Germany.

Mr Maclennan gave the cumulative increases. He explained that as the overall figures concealed differing trends over time, the latest annual increases were also given. These illustrated the marked reduction in the rate of increase for the UK relative to that for other countries; the latest available information for the UK indicated a further fall. In the year to September 1978 the retail price index had risen by 7.8 per cent and food prices by 7.2 per cent. The comparisons of increases in food prices were further complicated in that the inclusion of alcoholic drinks and tobacco varied between countries.

Consumer prices — Percentage increase

	Feb 1974-Aug 1978	Latest 12 months (Aug 1977-Aug 1978)
West Germany	20.6	2.4
USA	39.7	7.9
Japan	45.5	4.2
Canada	49.1	9.4
France	56.8	9.4
UK	96.1	8.0
Italy	98.0 [1]	12.1 [2]

[1] February 1974-July 1978. [2] July 1977-July 1978.

Food prices — Percentage increase

	Feb 1974-Aug 1978	Latest 12 months (Aug 1977-Aug 1978)
West Germany [1] [2]	19.2	0.5
USA	36.7	10.3
Japan	46.2	5.0
Canada	60.0	17.8
France [1]	61.1	8.5
UK	104.4	7.5
Italy	121.0 [3]	14.9 [4]

[1] Includes beverages. [2] Includes tobacco. [3] February 1974-July 1978. [4] July 1977-July 1978.
Sources: OECD Main Economic Indicators, national sources.

Tuesday, 14 November

Wool textile industry

Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he planned to issue guidance to firms in Yorkshire which were in the wool textile industry to relocate themselves to areas closer to the coast. He asked what was the volume and quality and price of goods produced by the wool textile industry in Yorkshire; how much of its products were exported; and if he would show the present figure compared to 1970 and 1974.

Mr Cryer said that he had no plans to issue guidance about relocation to any wool textile firms in Yorkshire and that in his recent response to the working party report on wool scouring effluent and water charges he had made it clear that the government was not prepared to support studies of the effect and cost of relocation. The information requested for the wool textile industry of Yorkshire was not available, he said. In general the emphasis of production for all wool textiles in the United Kingdom was on high quality, and this was particularly true of woollen and worsted fabrics for exports. Sales of wool textiles (as defined in MLH 414 of the standard industrial classification) in quantity and value, and their average unit values, by United Kingdom manufacturers employing 25 or more persons were as follows:

		1972	1974	1977
Tops	Million kg	80.0	60.4	59.4
	£ million	72.5	95.8	135.7
	£/kg	0.9	1.6	2.3
Woollen and worsted yarns	Million kg	188.4	159.4	151.3
	£ million	249.2	336.2	496.0
	£/kg	1.3	2.1	3.3
Woollen and worsted fabrics	Million m²	172.2	152.5	138.7
	£ million	153.7	214.5	288.7
	£/m²	0.9	1.4	2.1
Blankets	Million m²	30.8	32.2	30.9
	£ million	14.8	19.7	21.1
	£/m²	0.5	0.6	0.7
Other wool textile products	£ million	44.4	65.4	94.6
Total sales	£ million	534.6	731.6	1 036.1

Note: Comparable figures for years before 1972 are not available. Man-made fibre and mixture products of the wool textile industry are included in the above figures.

It is estimated that the value of total exports of wool textiles was:

		1972	1974	1977
Total exports	£ million	149.0	235.8	392.9

The figure for 1977 is not fully comparable with those of the earlier years.
Source: Business Monitors PQ 414 and M 10.

Tax preference on smaller cars

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what would be the effect on the indigenous motor car manufacturing industry if preference were given to smaller cars and more economical consumers of gasoline as opposed to larger vehicles should the gasoline tax be increased by 20p per gallon; and what would be the impact on car imports.

Mr Cryer said that if a 20p per gallon fuel tax were imposed at one time he would expect some trading-down to smaller cars and smaller-engined variants of model ranges. This would affect the British car industry's profit margins which were low on such models. Import penetration was at its highest in

small- and medium-sized cars, and such an increase in fuel tax might well lead to extra demand for imported vehicles in this range alongside those manufactured in the UK, especially in current buoyant market conditions. Were any such decision taken, however, a phased changeover to enable the industry fully to adjust would be more probable.

Funding for CAB

Lynda Chalker (Wallasey) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what commitment he was planning for the future funding of the citizens advice bureau service beyond 1981.

Mr Fraser said that the extent and form of assistance to the citizens advice bureau service after March 1981 would depend upon the outcome of a review of advice services which should be completed before that date. This review would need to take particular account of the findings of the Royal Commission on Legal Services in England and Wales, and proposals for the citizens advice bureaux services future development which the national association of CAB was at present preparing.

Odyssey Travel Ltd

Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) asked by what date Oddyssey Travel Ltd, 64 Oxford Street, London W1N 9FF, was due to submit an annual report and accounts for the tax year 1977-78.

Mr Clinton Davis said that this company had been reminded that the first annual return should have been delivered to the registrar by 2 October 1978. The first accounts were due to be delivered by 23 December 1978.

Companies bill

Timothy Smith (Ashfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if, when the companies bill had been enacted, he would introduce a further bill to consolidate company law; if he would seek to amend section 14 of the Companies Act 1967 so that the auditors' report referred also to the Companies Act 1976.

Mr Smith said that it was intended that arrangements should be made to prepare for the necessary consolidation of the companies acts, once the present companies bill had been enacted. An appropriate amendment had been included in schedule 3 of the companies bill.

Berne Copyright Convention

Tim Sainsbury (Hove) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he had had with ministers with responsibility for the arts of other member countries of the European community on the development of standard rights for the living artist on a resale of his work in accordance with the Berne Convention in 1886, as revised in June 1948.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the right of the artist or his heirs to an interest in any resale of his work was a provision of the Berne Copyright Convention which was left open to member countries to provide if they saw fit. United Kingdom law did not provide the right and there had been no ministerial discussions within the European community relating to it. The subject was discussed in the report of the Whitford committee which was at present under consideration.

Wednesday, 15 November

Co-operative development agency

Laurie Pavitt (Brent South) asked the Secretary of State for Industry when he expected to lay before parliament prosposals for expenditure to meet the cost of establishing the Co-operative Development Agency under the Co-operative Development Agency Act 1978.

Mr Williams replied that parliamentary approval for this new service would be sought in the winter supplementary estimate for the general support to industry vote. Pending that approval the necessary expenditure was being met by repayable advances from the contingencies fund.

Directions to NEB

Norman Lamont (Kingston upon Thames) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would list the dates, and the companies concerned, when the National Enterprise Board had been given directions under section 3 of the Industry Act.

Mr Huckfield said that directions had been given on 25 March 1977 and 21 April 1978 to provide financial assistance to British Leyland Ltd.

NEB shareholdings

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list the shareholdings held by the National Enterprise Board on 15 November, showing the number and description of the shares, the percentage of total equity held by the National Enterprise Board, the cost of the shareholding and, where appropriate, the market value of the shareholding at close of business on 15 November.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

Company	Number and description of shares held by NEB	Per cent of nominal value of total equity	Cost (£'000)	Stock Exchange quotation (closing price 13 Nov.) where available
Agemaspark Ltd	3 700 £1 ordinary	30.0	100	
	50 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	50	
Aqualisa Products Ltd	4 000 £1 ordinary	40.0	4	
	65 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	65	
Automation and Technical Services (Holdings) Ltd	45 000 £1 ordinary	30.0	50	
	100 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	100	
Barrow Hepburn Group Ltd	1 000 000 25p ordinary	4.1	450	36p
BL Ltd	1 144 554 026 50p ordinary	98.9	695 523	20p
British Tanners Products Ltd	2 000 000 £1 ordinary	50.0	2 000	
Brown Boveri Kent Ltd	10 856 585 25p ordinary	20.0	3 293	45p
BTB (Engineering) Ltd	30 000 £1 redeemable preference	50.0	30	
Bull Motors Ltd	500 000 £1 ordinary	100.0	500	
Cambridge Instrument Co Ltd	412 684 255 1p ordinary	79.7	5 020	
	4 261 757 10p ordinary			
	50 000 000 £1 ordinary	Not equity	500	
R. R. Chapman (Sub Sea Surveys) Ltd	50 000 £1 ordinary	42.7	50	
Computer Analysts and Programmers (Holdings) Ltd	1 372 760 10p ordinary	29.9	549	
Computer and Systems Engineering Ltd	349 750 5p ordinary	49.9	882	
	15 200 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	48	
Data Recording Instrument Co Ltd	3 970 337 £1 ordinary	63.1	3 977	
	1 000 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	1 000	
The Energy Equipment Co Ltd	75 000 £1 preference	42.9	75	
	100 000 £1 preference	Not equity	100	
	125 000 £1 preference		125	
Fairey Holdings Ltd	18 000 000 £1 ordinary	100.0	18 000	
Ferranti Ltd	10 666 666 50p ordinary	50.0	6 933	
Hemmings Plastics Ltd	100 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	100	
Herbert Ltd	83 632 948 25p ordinary	100.0	36 196	
Hird Brown Ltd	250 000 £1 redeemable preference	100.0	250	
Hydraroll Ltd	4 500 £1 ordinary	48.9	5	
	60 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	60	
ICL Ltd	8 148 750 £1 ordinary	24.4	12 134	425p
Inmos Ltd	370 000 25p ordinary	67.3	92	
	5 000 £100 preference	Not equity	500	
INSAC Data Systems Ltd	2 150 000 £1 ordinary	100.0	2 150	
J and P Engineering Ltd	45 000 £1 ordinary	33.3	100	
Keland Electronics Ltd	100 000 £1 ordinary	100.0	100	
Mayflower Packaging Ltd	60 000 redeemable preference	33.3	60	
	60 000 redeemable preference	Not equity	60	
The Mollart Engineering Co Ltd	46 822 £1 ordinary	70.6	382	
Monotype Holdings Ltd	250 000 £1 ordinary	37.5	250	
Negretti and Zambra Ltd	960 000 25p ordinary	29.8	710	
	460 622 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	461	
Newtown Securities (Northern) Ltd	125 000 £1 ordinary	50.0	125	
North East Audio Ltd	54 450 £1 ordinary	49.8	99	
	340 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	340	
Pakmet International Ltd	23 300 £1 ordinary	34.4	47	
	200 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	200	
Powerdrive PSR Ltd	20 000 £1 ordinary	40.0	20	
	100 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	100	
	150 000 £1 redeemable preference		150	
Power Dynamics Ltd	60 000 £1 ordinary	33.3	60	
	120 000 redeemable preference	Not equity	120	
Rolls-Royce Ltd	203 000 000 £1 ordinary	100.0	203 000	
Sandiacre Electrics Ltd	30 000 £1 ordinary	30.0	40	
	125 000 £1 redeemable preference	Not equity	125	
Francis Shaw and Co Ltd	1 400 000 20p ordinary	Not equity	546	
Sinclair Radionics Ltd	75 000 £1 ordinary	73.3	650	
	200 000 £1 preference	Not equity	2 000	
	2 000 000 £1 redeemable preference			
Systems Designers International Ltd	3 060 £1 ordinary	26.0	184	
Systems Programming Holdings Ltd	300 £1 'v' voting	79.9	600	
	600 000 £1 'D' non-voting			
Systime Ltd	847 £1 ordinary	28.1	538	
	476 £1 preference			
Twinlock Ltd	7 123 000 10p ordinary	33.3	997	
United Medical Enterprises Ltd	4 619 440 £1 ordinary	70.0	5 774	
Vicort of London Ltd	9 608 £1 ordinary	49.0	10	
	130 392 redeemable preference	Not equity	130	

EIB loans

Robert Hicks (Bodmin) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the number of successful applications made by United Kingdom companies to the European Investment Bank for loans under the small companies exchange risk guarantee scheme, and the total financial sum involved; and what was the number of rejections by the European Investment Bank following his department's recommendations for approval to the European Investment Bank.

Mr Cryer said that 26 loan applications totalling £14,889,000 had so far been approved by the European Investment Bank under this scheme; one application had been rejected.

Wholesale supply of petrol

Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster) asked when the report of the Monopolies Commission Inquiry into the wholesale supply of petrol would be published.

Mr Fraser said that the commission's report was being considered. It would be laid before parliament and published as soon as possible.

Consumer Credit Act

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked how many complaints had been received by the Director of Fair Trading in connection with section 155 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974; if he was reviewing the working of that section; if he had given any indication that he was likely to recommend any amendment to that section; and how many legal proceedings had been instituted in connection with the provisions of section 155 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

Mr Fraser said he understood that the director-general did from time to time receive complaints in connection with section 155 of the Consumer Credit Act from consumers and brokers. He would ask the director general to write to him about the numbers. The director general had not indicated that he was likely to recommend an amendment to section 155 but if in time, experience showed that amendment was needed, he would, he was sure, so recommend. Information about the number of legal proceedings instituted in connection with section 155 was not held centrally.

Submissions on industrial democracy

Maurice Macmillan (Farnham) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would list the organisations which have made submissions to him in reply to the government's white paper on 'Industrial democracy', command paper 7231; which of these submissions had given broad support to the government's proposals; and which had opposed the main proposals put forward in the white paper.

Mr Smith said that his department had, by Friday 10 November, received representations on the white paper on industrial democracy from the following organisations:

Accepting Houses Committee
Agricultural Co-operation and Marketing Services Ltd
American Chamber of Commerce (United Kingdom)
Association of British Chambers of Commerce
Association of Corporate Trustees
Association of Investment Trust Companies
BAT Industries Ltd
Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Bodycote International Ltd
British Institute of Management
British Insurance Association
British Insurance Brokers Association
British Oxygen Corporation Ltd
British Petroleum Ltd
British Quarrying and Slag Federation
Building Societies Association
Chemical Industries Association
City Company Law Committee
Committee of London Clearing Bankers
Committee of Scottish Clearing Banks
Confederation of British Industry
Conservative Trade Unionists
Co-operative Union Ltd
Courtaulds Ltd
Coverdale Organisation
Engineers and Managers Association
Engineering Employers Federation
English China Clays Ltd
Esso Chemical Ltd
Esso Petroleum Co Ltd
Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
Federation of Industrial Management and Professional Associations
Fisons Ltd
Food Manufacturers Federation
Ford Motor Co Ltd
Friendly Societies Liaison Committee
Gallaher Ltd
General Council of British Shipping
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd
Honeywell Ltd
IBM United Kingdom Ltd
ICI Ltd
ICI Petrochemicals Division Water Treatment Plant Work Group
Independent Television Companies Association Ltd
Industrial Participation Association
Industrial Society
Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
Institute of Directors
Institute of Personnel Management
Institution of Works Managers
Johnson Matthey and Co Ltd
Kodak Ltd
Law Society of England
Law Society of Scotland
Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Legislation Monitoring Service for Charities
Leicester Hosiery Manufacturers Association
Lindustries Ltd
Lloyds Register of Shipping
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Managerial, Professional and Staff Liaison Group
Marks and Spencer Ltd
Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MK Electric Holdings Ltd
Monsanto Ltd
National Association of Pension Funds
National Federation of Building Trades Employers
Panel on Take-overs and Mergers
Proctor and Gamble Ltd
Rank Xerox Ltd
Ranks Hovis McDougall Ltd
Retail Distributors Association Inc
Royal Institute of Chemistry
Sand and Gravel Association
Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd
Society of Investment Analysts
Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Stock Exchange
Thomas Tilling Ltd
Trades Union Congress
Transport and General Workers Union
Trustee Savings Bank Central Board
Unilever UK Holdings
Unit Trust Association
Unquoted Companies' Group
Whitbread and Co Ltd

Concorde overflying Malaysia

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what developments had occurred during the parliamentary recess and since towards enabling British Airways to obtain traffic rights to land Concorde at Singapore by overflying Malaysian territorial waters; when he last met the Malaysian government representatives; and what he intended to do to solve this dispute.

Mr Clinton Davis said that earlier this year the government had provided the Malaysian government with full technical and environmental data relating to the supersonic operation of Concorde over water. The new Malaysian government had the matter under active consideration and the British high commissioner had offered to provide all such further information or clarification as might be required. It was hoped that this constructive attitude would produce a favourable result.

Local advisory services

Ken Weetch (Ipswich) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would make an announcement about the future of his department's grants to consumer advice centres after March 1979.

Mr Fraser said that his department was this year making specific grants totalling approximately £3¾ million available to meet the full running costs of the 120 consumer advice centres in Great Britain. It had been decided to extend this grant scheme for a further two years, until March 1981, and to maintain the same level of support. His department hoped to have discussions shortly with the local authority associations about the operation of the scheme. The form of support to consumer advice centres beyond 31 March 1981 would be considered as part of a review of local advisory services which the government intended to undertake. This would take particular account of recommendations which might be made by the Royal Commissions on Legal Servics in England and Wales and in Scotland. The reports by the national and Scottish consumer councils on local advice services would also make an important contribution to this review.

John Sever (Birmingham, Ladywood) asked about the future of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection's grant assistance to the citizens advice bureau service after March 1979.

Mr Fraser said that his department expected to provide a total of £1.26 million to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux in the present financial year. The decision had been made to maintain total grant assistance to the National Association at no less than its present level until 31 March 1981 by extending the five year development grant beyond its original expiry date of 31 March 1979. It was intended to give special attention to the needs of the citizens advice bureau service in Scotland. The form of support to the citizens advice bureau service beyond 31 March 1981 would be considered as part of a review of local advisory services which the government intended to undertake. This would take particular account of recommendations which might be made by the Royal Commissions on Legal Services in England and Wales, and in Scotland. The reports by the national and Scottish consumers councils on local advice services, and proposals for the citizens advice bureau service's future development which were being formulated by the national association, would also make an important contribution to this review.

Off-peak electricity

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would refer to the Director General of Fair Trading for investigation the claims made by the electricity supply industry in their recent advertisements of the off-peak electricity tariff economy, in the light of a report by the Electricity Consumer Council.

Mr Fraser said that the *Official Report*, 13 November 1978, vol. 958, col. 6, had given the following information: as the Electricity Consumers' Council was in direct correspondence with the Electricity Council about the latter's advertising of the new off-peak tariffs of the area electricity boards, he did not propose to take any action at the present time.

Petrol pump prices

Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what discussions he had had with the major oil companies about their plans to increase petrol pump prices.

Mr Maclennan replied that general oversight of the activities of the oil companies was the responsibility of the energy secretary. The secretary of state for prices had last seen the oil companies on 7 and 8 June. He had no immediate plans to meet them again. Whether any intended price increase or change in trading terms by any individual company was a notifiable price increase, and whether it should be investigated, was a matter for the Price Commission.

Weights and Measures Bill

Ernest Perry (Wandsworth, Battersea South) asked if appropriate background information to the new Weights and Measures Bill would be placed in the Vote Office.

Mr Fraser answered that background information had been placed in the Vote Office. The report of the Working Party on Metrological Control Systems (cmnd 6805) was also relevant.

Thursday, 16 November

Banking charges

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would list the action taken by his department on the recommendations of the Price Commission on banking charges for money transmission services.

Mr Maclennan replied that following discussions with the Committee of London Clearing Banks and other interested parties, the secretary of state had announced on 21 September his conclusions on the Price Commission report on bank charges for money transmission services. While the report contained no advice on which statutory action to restrict prices could be based, it put forward a number of important suggestions which had been considered in detail with the banks and other bodies concerned. Certain banks had already announced changes in their methods of setting charges to bring them more in line with the commission's proposals. Government departments had been reminded of the need to obtain competitive quotations. The Treasury was in contact with the Trustee Savings Bank Central Board on proposals of concern to them, while the Bank of England was discussing with the clearing banks the commission's observations on admission to the bankers' clearing house and cash distribution arrangements. The Committee of London Clearing Banks had established a committee to consider the comparability of accounts and disclosure of bad and doubtful debts, and their conclusions would be reported to the Department of Trade. The question of jointly negotiated tariffs had been referred to the Director General of Fair Trading. The banks and their associations continued to review the scope for flexibility in opening hours. He had noted with interest that the Midland Bank had recently announced plans for evening opening in particular circumstances, and that Barclays Bank was experimenting with Saturday opening in specific areas.

Performing Right Society

Fred Evans (Caerphilly) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would seek to abolish the powers of the Performing Right Society and substitute other and more equitable methods of paying composers and writers.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he would not. The Performing Right Society handled the collection and distribution of royalties for composers and writers; an individual could only do this for himself with great difficulty. The society had a large proportion of currently popular music in its repertoire and was therefore in a strong position. Its activities were, however, controlled by the Performing Right Tribunal which determined disputes between the society and users of its music.

Glue sniffing

Fred Evans (Caerphilly) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would take steps to make it a legal offence to sell juveniles substances which could be used for glue sniffing; and if he would seek to make glue sniffing an offence.

Mr Fraser said that he fully shared the questioner's concern about this dangerous practice. But there were so many products which could be misused in this way that it would not be practicable to ban their sale to young persons. He did not consider that legislation prohibiting the practice would be the right answer to this extremely difficult problem.

Imports of minerals

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what steps he was now taking to build up strategic reserves of key minerals for British industry; from information available to him what had been the value and weight of tungsten, vanadium, chromium, nickel, molybdenum and cobalt consumed or purchased, respectively, in each of the past five years; and what estimates he had made of requirements over the next five years.

Mr Cryer said that responsibility for ensuring sufficient supplies and stocks of raw materials lay primarily with industry. The government kept the position under continuous review and would take such steps as the situation demanded. Consumption of tungsten, vanadium, chromium, nickel, molybdenum and cobalt in the United Kingdom depended mainly on purchases from overseas, the only supplies from indigenous primary sources being small quantities of mined tungsten. Imports by weight and value in each of the last five years were given. No comprehensive estimates of such imports over the next five years were available.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Tungsten (tonnes):					
Ores and concentrates	8 770	4 009	3 355	3 829	3 365
Tungsten content	4 048	2 145	1 812	2 097	1 860
Ferro-alloys	149	215	255	360	335
Unwrought and worked metal	61	126	224	153	208
Total cif value (£ million)	(10.9)	(10.8)	(11.7)	(20.0)	(27.6)
Vanadium (tonnes):					
Oxides	1 133	914	822	989	702
Ferro-alloys	595	460	349	281	446
Unwrought and worked metal	'	19	11	17	59
Total cif value (£ million)	(')	(2.6)	(2.8)	(3.7)	(4.0)
Chromium (thousand tonnes):					
Ores and concentrates	199.2	138.1	144.4	137.7	197.6
Ferro-alloys	77.4	67.9	65.0	108.4	77.2
Unwrought and worked metal	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total cif value (£ million)	(14.0)	(23.0)	(')	(')	(38.4)
Nickel (thousand tonnes):					
Matte, speiss, etc	48.2	49.9	66.9	54.4	61.4
Sevap	4.8	4.2	2.7	4.2	3.5
Ferro-alloys	11.7	17.6	11.2	11.7	16.9
Unwrought metal	23.9	24.2	23.9	20.9	21.5
Worked metal	2.8	6.9	5.6	4.3	3.1
Total cif value (£ million)	(82.1)	(108.5)	(138.9)	(160.4)	(189.3)
Molybdenum (tonnes):					
Ores and concentrates	11 234	10 569	13 528	13 617	13 934
Ferro-alloys	872	727	650	834	880
Unwrought and worked metal	164	196	166	133	162
Total cif value (£ million)	(12.3)	(13.5)	(20.9)	(31.9)	(43.2)
Cobalt (tonnes):					
Matte, speiss, etc	239				
Unwrought and worked metal	1 697	2 807	2 168	2 262	2 124
Oxides	808	1 058	884	807	1 096
Total cif value (£ million)	(6.4)	(11.1)	(11.2)	(15.8)	(19.9)

' Information not available.

Imports of fresh fruit

John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would state the volume of imports into the United Kingdom in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and the first six months of 1978 of limes, melons, nectarines, peaches, plums, strawberries, table grapes and apricots.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

Tonnes

	1974	1975	1976	1977	Jan-Jun 1978
Melons	38 826	53 432	60 885	44 196	11 808
Peaches including nectarines	28 532	22 443	40 314	28 153	3 175
Plums	16 224	13 186	20 508	11 432	4 570
Strawberries	1 801	1 801	1 307	2 088	3 801
Table grapes	57 252	55 486	49 911	41 994	10 486
Apricots	2 654	2 052	1 871	771	1 299

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics, SITC (R) Group 051 and SITC (R2) Group 057.
Note: Limes are not separately identified in the Overseas Trade Statistics.

Prices of advanced factories

Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what were the instructions given to district valuers in arriving at selling prices of advanced factory units built by his department, or under their auspices; and if such instructions included any requirements to take into account the use of such factories to attract new companies to an area on the creation of new jobs.

Mr Cryer said that the function of the district valuer was to arrive independently at the open market value for advance factories owned by his department. Regional incentives for the occupiers of these factories such as rent-free periods, regional development grants and assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, were dealt with by his department as separate matters.

Equipment for Airbus Industrie

Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked the Secretary of State for Industry in the light of the recent statement issued by his department on the agreement between British Aerospace and Airbus Industrie, if he would amplify how the agreement would provide opportunities for the British aviation equipment industry, identifying the types of equipment and when they would be required.

Mr Huckfield said that it had been agreed that in future the UK equipment would be able to compete for the supply of equipment to Airbus Industrie on the same basis as the French and German industries. Previously the latter enjoyed a preference. The types of equipment to be supplied and dates were primarily a matter for commercial negotiations between Airbus Industrie and the equipment manufacturers.

NEB sales of companies

Jerry Wiggin (Weston super Mare) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if the National Enterprise Board sought his permission before selling a company or part of a company; and in what circumstances such a sale was allowed to a foreign buyer.

Mr Huckfield pointed out that the board was required under its guidelines to obtain the approval of the secretary of state to the disposal of any voting shares or stock which they held and each case for disposal was considered on its merits.

Friday, 17 November

Balance of trade with EEC

Neil Martin (Banbury) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what had been the balance of visible trade with the United Kingdom's common market partners for the last 12 months and the balance for invisibles.

Mr Meacher said that figures for 1977 – the latest 12 months period for which information was available for both visibles and invisibles – were given in table 14.1 of *United Kingdom Balance of Payments, 1967-77*. Figures of the UK's visible trade with EEC up to the first half of 1978 were published in table 4 of the article 'United Kingdom trade in the second quarter of 1978', which appeared in *Trade and Industry*, 8 September 1978.

Consumer safety act

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would list those sections of the Consumer Protection Act which were now in force and those which had still to be brought into effect with an indication of what action he proposed to implement them.

Mr Fraser replied that the Consumer Safety Act (Commencement 1) Order 1978 made on 28 September 1978 had brought into force on 1 November 1978 all the provisions of the Consumer Safety Act 1978 except those (section 10(1) and schedule 3) which repealed the Consumer Protection Act 1961, the Consumer Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 and legislation amending those acts. The powers provided by the consumer safety act would be used as and when necessary in the interests of the safety of consumers. Existing regulations made under the consumer protection acts would be remade under the new act.

Mineral exploration and investments grant

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what use had been made of section 1 of the Mineral Exploration and Investments Grant Act 1972.

Mr Bob Cryer indicated that between 24 February 1972 (when the act came into force) and 31 March 1978 assistance totalling £1,600,119 had been approved and grants of £835,384 had been made. No monies had yet been repaid, but his department was monitoring the progress of a few promising projects. Full details would be published in the annual report for 1977-78, whose publication was at present held up because of an industrial dispute at HMSO.

Post Office Board

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked how many elected workers' representatives there were on the Post Office Board; and how many vacancies existed as at 17th November.

Mr Huckfield replied that the Post Office Board included seven elected workers' representatives nominated by trade unions and appointed by the secretary of state. If these seven posts, one vacancy existed as at 17 November.

Negotiation on Oil Mop device

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked whether his department had been in negotiation with any former government employees concerning the Oil Mop device.

Mr Huckfield said that the department's Warren Spring Laboratory had been in contact with two companies in connection with the evaluation of Oil Mop devices. One of these companies was known to employ a former government employee. He was unaware of the total extent of employment of former government employees in the companies contacted by the Warren Spring Laboratory.

Industrial democracy in British Aerospace

Ron Thomas (Bristol North West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make a statement on the development of industrial democracy in British Aerospace.

Mr Kaufman replied that on 6 December 1977 copies of the report which British Aerospace had submitted in accordance with Section 5(3) of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977 were laid before each House of Parliament. The corporation had kept us closely informed of developments since then and the secretary of state laid before each House of Parliament copies of a progress report which had been submitted to him in August.

The report enclosed the final joint report agreed by British Aerospace and the Consultative Committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) in February 1978. The corporation's report recorded the differences of attitude and opinion on industrial democracy between members of CSEU unions and other organisations that had emerged during discussions at each factory. The corporation now proposed to develop further its discussions with all its employees and their appropriate representatives to establish how its agreement with the CSEU could acceptably be related to the development of a single democratic structure embracing all its employees. If, after consultations, there was failure at any site to achieve this single structure, the corporation said it would need to consider the alternative of a parallel structure. He had asked British Aerospace to report regularly on the progress of discussions and he hoped to receive the first of these reports early next year. He would continue to inform the house of significant developments.

Technology news

SRC plans more support for engineering and science research

Engineering and the biological, mathematical and physical sciences are to get an increasing share, over the next five years, of the Science Research Council's resources for research in universities and its own establishments. This will be accompanied, says the council in its programme review which was released on 16 November, by a reduction in the budgets for astronomy, space, radio and nuclear physics.

In 1977/78 the council's gross expenditure was almost £140 million. All but about £3 million of this was provided by parliamentary grant-in-aid.

The council's programme will require expenditure by 1982/83 to be about 2 per cent greater than that of 1977/78. This is based on the minimum budgets with which the council, in view of the constraints on government funds, believes it can sustain standards of higher education and research in the UK.

In its role of funding post-graduate research and training in universities, the council is giving further encouragement to collaboration between universities, polytechnics, industry and public bodies. A trial scheme has been started in the engineering area to explore the feasibility of 12 to 15 month duration collaborative training awards. Graduates undertaking university based research design or manufacturing projects under the scheme will spend two or more months on the premises of an industrial company.

A new co-operative research scheme is to be launched to advance understanding and the improvement of industrial and commercial operations. Each project will involve an industrial partner who will be expected to match the council's contribution in cash, kind and knowhow. The company will play a full part in choosing and carrying out the project.

The above two schemes compliment the existing co-operative awards in science and engineering (Case) scheme and the joint council and Department of Industry teaching company scheme. These are expanding successfully with 770 Case studentships being awarded in 1977 and a present total of 12 teaching company programmes approved.

Priority is being given to special programmes of collaborative research and training in areas of national importance. Proposals are being developed for a national programme in computing which would be undertaken jointly with industry and the Department of Industry.

The special programme in marine technology has been expanded with grants totalling £3.8 million awarded to five university centres. By helping to create centres of academic expertise in this field, the council seeks to attract the support of industry in programmes of research and training. Industrial firms collaborating in the council's special programme in polymer engineering are now meeting one third of the total cost of current research projects.

Intermediate sized equipment being used by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne to establish the principles involved in cutting soil under water. This work is part of the SRC's special programme in marine technology.

Strategy for energy conservation RD&D set out

An initial strategy for energy conservation research, development and demonstration (RD&D) in industry and details of the financial arrangements for a UK demonstration projects programme are set out in energy paper no. 32 'Energy conservation research, development and demonstration: an initial strategy for industry,' published by HMSO, price £2.25. The report, by scientists drawn from the Department of Energy's Energy Technology Support Unit and the Departments of Industry and Environment, is based on an analysis of the government's industrial audit studies and other reports.

It suggests that the longer-term energy savings which are theoretically possible in industry through technological changes now feasible could be as high as 30 per cent of the present rate of industrial consumption – equivalent to 38 million tonnes of coal (mtc) a year. The report represents the first step in the development of an overall energy conservation RD&D strategy and deals in depth only with a demonstration projects programme designed to demonstrate the benefits of new or novel applications of existing technology.

To promote and accelerate technological change the report proposes to give overall priority to the reapplication and improvement of existing technology. In particular, as fuel prices rise opportunities will be sought to reapply existing technologies on a smaller scale in order to spread the benefits more widely. Initially it proposes to place emphasis on saving energy at the point of use and on improved process efficiency – for example, by adding insulation, heat recovery and instrumentation and control. Further studies will be carried out to establish the longer-term possibilities for conservation through more radical changes – for example, by reducing the energy content of products.

The government has allocated a total of

£21.5 million over the next four years for a UK demonstration projects programme (see *Trade and Industry*, 3 November 1978). The report says that in order that the government's limited resources can be deployed to best effect, the highest priority will be given to the following technologies roughly in descending order of priority: waste heat recovery; instrumentation and control; waste heat utilisation; waste as fuel; heat pumps; and industrial combined heat and power.

So far as industrial sectors are concerned, priority will be given to: food and drink; oil refining; chemicals; non-ferrous metals; bricks, refractories, pottery, glass and cement; and paper and board.

In the iron and steel industry which offers the greatest potential saving, separate discussions are taking place with the British Steel Corporation and the independent producers to assess the effort needed in that sector.

The report says that positive initiatives will be taken by the government to seek out demonstration projects to encourage the wider use of these technologies in the priority sectors of industry but that this will not exclude other technologies or sectors or projects at the research end of the RD&D spectrum.

Government assistance for demonstration projects will combine the traditional shared-cost contract type of arrangement used for R&D projects with the provision of grants. In the case of users of the technology to be demonstrated, grant aid will be the norm but it is expected that manufacturers of the project equipment will often prefer the shared cost arrangement.

Grant aid to users will usually take the form of a government contribution of up to 25 per cent of the capital cost of the plant or equipment and its installation. In addition, financial assistance of up to 100 per cent will be available to cover the installation and operation of monitoring or other special ancilliary equipment required for demonstration or testing purposes. In the case of the manufacturer who has the prospect of increased sales of plant or equipment if the demonstration project is successful assistance will generally be provided by means of shared cost arrangements, normally 50 per cent.

Information about UK demonstration projects may be obtained from, Dr W. M. Currie, ETSU, Building 10.28, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Oxfordshire OX11 0RA.

First boiler project funded by Department of Energy

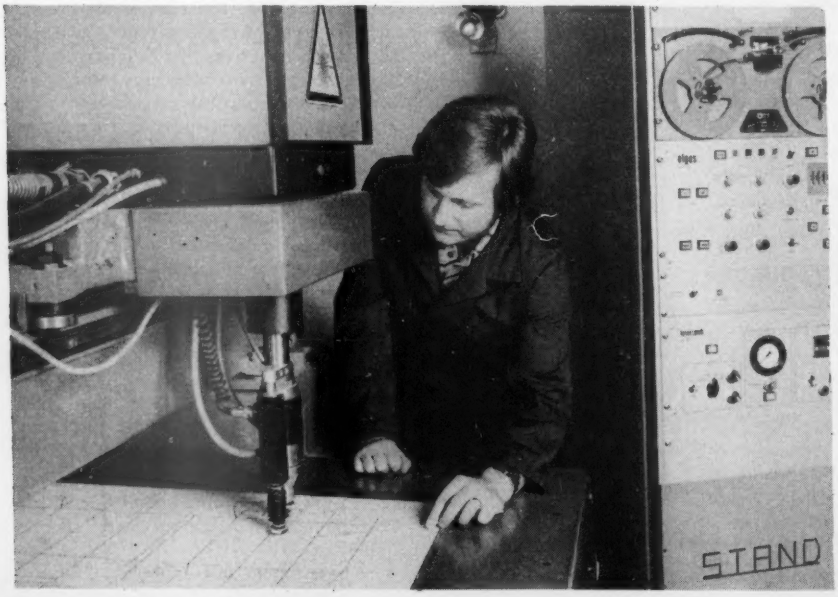
Over half the cost of a new fluidised-bed boiler project – which could burn a much wider range of coal than conventional boilers – is being financed by the Department of Energy under the government's £21.5 million programme of energy-saving demonstration projects. The department will contribute £61,400 towards total costs of £116,800. Stone-Platt Fluidfire of Dudley, Worcestershire, is to manufacture the boiler for another member of the Stone-Platt Group, Hayward Tyler of Keighley, Yorkshire.

This is the first project under the government's initial research development and demonstration programme which highlights the potential for improved combustion technology in British industry. Fluidised-bed combustion technology enables a much wider range of types of coal to be used than in conventional boilers. Coal can be burnt more effectively and, because the new boiler will be more compact and give better heat transfer, it is expected to be cheaper to install and more economic to run than existing coal boilers.

Most of the government aid will go to Hayward Tyler in the form of both grant aid and shared costs. In general, this means the company will get up to 100 per cent of the initial consultancy fees for specification and lay-out; 25 per cent of the capital, installation, commissioning of the boiler and ancillary equipment, and 100 per cent of the special costs of the follow-up instrumentation, energy auditing and performance monitoring.

Laser die-board cutter increases Arden Dies production

This installation of a numerically controlled laser system for die-board cutting has been a major factor in increasing the turnover of Arden Dies Ltd of Marple by over 25 per cent in 18 months. The system installed is a Lasercomb system consisting of a numerically controlled Ferranti MF400 Laser, an X-Y table and a laser-following plotter table. The software for producing the nc paper tapes has been mostly developed by Dr T. R. Crossley of the mechanical engineering department of Salford University.



Department of Industry surveys waste tyre pyrolysis

Coal Processing Consultants Ltd (CPC) has been awarded a contract by the Department of Industry to review pyrolysis processes which aim to recover useful products from the 13 million old car and truck tyres, weighing 150 000 tonnes, at present landfilled or incinerated every year in the UK. The purpose of the study is to give the department an impartial technical and economic review of three possible processes. CPC is due to present its initial findings in December. The first commercial tyre pyrolysis plants could be operating in the UK by the end of 1980.

Valuable oils and residues useful to the chemical industry for the manufacture of such products as fuel oils and carbon black can be recovered by heating the tyres under carefully-controlled conditions and in the absence of oxygen so that they do not actually burn. Gas given off in the process can be used to fuel the heating furnaces.

Variations of the process are being developed by a number of UK companies. The processes being studied by CPC are those of Batchelor Robinson who have been involved in a pilot plant development programme at the department's Warren Spring Laboratory; Foster Wheeler, who have developed a process under licence from the National Research Development Corporation; and Ugland (UK) Ltd, with technology available under licence from Intenco of Houston, Texas.

Coal Processing Consultants is a joint company of the National Coal Board, through NCB (Coal Products) Ltd and Babcock and Wilcox Ltd through its subsidiary, Woodall-Duckham Ltd. CPC was chosen because of the affinity of technology between tyre pyrolysis and certain coal processing technologies and because of the company's strength in independent techno-economic appraisals.

University company to exploit new ideas

The University of Surrey has set up a private limited company, University Business Associates Ltd, to exploit ideas, inventions and

expertise which exist or are developed within the university in the future. The chairman of the company is the university's former Chancellor, Lord Robens, and the managing director is Kenneth J. Joyner, a civil engineer and director of a number of companies. The board of directors includes the secretary of the university and Professor Colin Robinson, head of the university's economics department and a leading authority on the economics of North Sea oil exploitation.

The successful development of a research finding into a viable product or process often requires access to entrepreneurial skills and commercial contacts outside the university. The company will enter into a contract with the originator of each exploitable idea, and will then in turn place contracts with commercial or industrial concerns so as to achieve the most effective exploitation to the benefit of the originator, the university and the country. The facilities made available by the company will be a valuable supplement to Surrey University's existing patenting and licensing arrangements, and the company's constitution will permit other universities to participate in due course.

NPL dosemeter goes worldwide

A secondary standard dosemeter has been developed by the Department of Industry's National Physical Laboratory (NPL) to form the link between the national primary standard and the numerous dosemeters used in hospitals for the measurement of the X-ray output of machines for the treatment of cancer. The successful performance of this instrument has led to worldwide sales as a reference standard.

In the treatment of cancer there is only a narrow margin between over-dosage, which leads to serious complications from damage to normal tissue, and under-dosage, leading to a recurrence of the cancer. To steer a sufficiently accurate course between under- and over-dosage, it has been necessary to develop appropriate instruments to measure the dosage delivered, and a fundamental standard against which these instruments can be calibrated.

In the United Kingdom, through the co-operation of the Department of Industry, the Department of Health and Social Security, and the Hospital Physicists Association, a nation-wide scheme has been established to ensure that measurements of every X-ray treatment machine in the national health service are traceable to the national standard at NPL. Originally, various existing dosemeters were selected to act as the secondary standard link. In order to improve accuracy and also to streamline procedures, the new instrument was designed and developed specifically for this purpose by a team in the division of radiation science and acoustics at NPL, and production-engineered and manufactured by Nuclear Enterprises Ltd.

The high performance level of this instrument has enabled the Nuclear Enterprises to obtain worldwide orders for similar instruments in some 40 countries. Many of the instruments are in use as secondary standards, having been calibrated by NPL or by one of the relatively few national primary standardising laboratories in existence around the world. Those instruments not calibrated by a national laboratory have been calibrated by Nuclear Enterprises as tertiary standards against an NPL calibrated secondary standard instrument held by the company.

In order to assist developing countries, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organisation are co-operating in setting up a network of secondary standard dosimetry laboratories for the calibration of instruments used for X-ray output measurements. The NPL secondary standard is being acquired by many such centres as their national reference instrument.

Carbon-fibre component improves yarn-winder performance

A carbon-fibre component has been introduced into a yarn winding machine manufactured by the Shirley Institute at Didsbury, Manchester. A big improvement in machine performance is claimed. Two 100-head winding machines incorporating new carbon-fibre reinforced plastic traverse arms have recently been supplied to an American company.

The winding machine is used to wind cheese-shaped packages of spun polyester sewing thread at constant tension and each of the 100 winding heads incorporates a carbon-fibre traverse arm. Originally the arms were made of 16 gauge mild steel but these were found to load the traverse cam mechanism unduly owing to their high mass. Arms made of steel wire proved to be too weak. Manufacturing the traverse arms from carbon-fibre reinforced plastic, having a high strength-to-weight ratio, proved an outstanding success. The new arm is lighter and stiffer than the original, thus increasing the life of the traverse mechanism. In addition, the greater stiffness eliminates deflections of the arm whilst traversing, and this results in an improved yarn package.

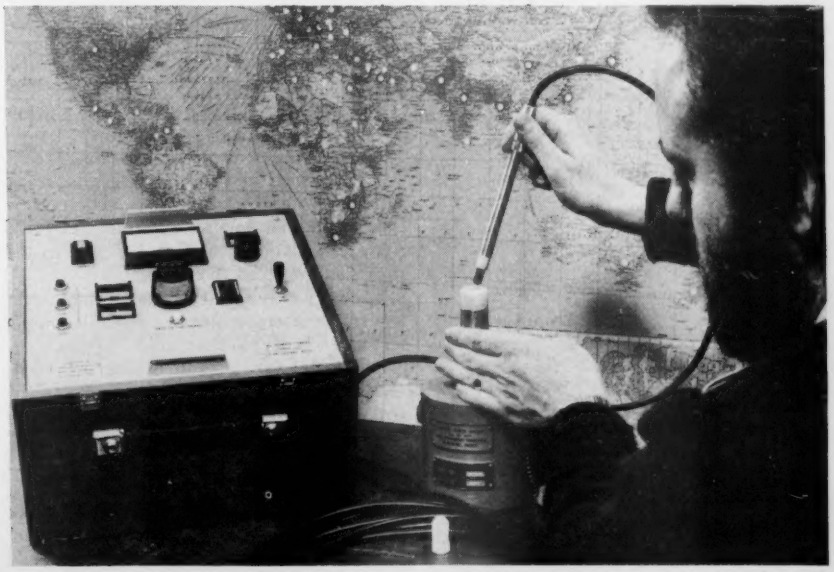
The traverse arms were manufactured at the Shirley Institute by hot moulding techniques. Although material costs were higher, the greatly simplified design and manufacturing method resulted in a finished component of similar cost to the original. The institute has for many years been working in the field of carbon-fibre-reinforced plastics, mainly for the aerospace industry, but more recently components in this material have been developed for machinery manufacturers.

Advertisements for 'Trade and Industry'

All advertisement inquiries and bookings should be addressed to the Advertisement Department at 13 Great James Street, London WC1, telephone 01-242 9478.

Improved yarn package resulting from Shirley Institute's carbon-fibre traverse arm.

The sensitive thimble probe being inserted into a protective cylinder containing a small radioactive source for checking the calibration consistency of NPL's dosemeter.



New products

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Bulk handling system saves energy and costs

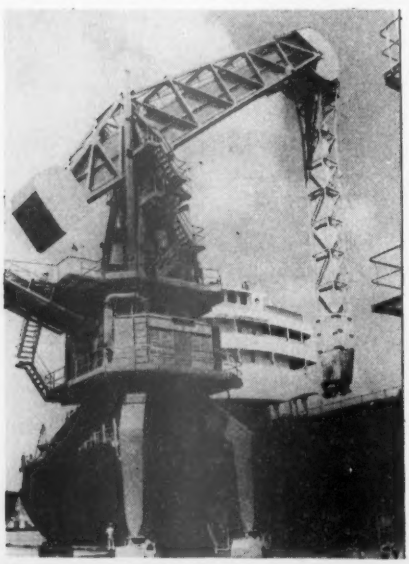
A ship unloading system based upon an entirely new concept in the mechanical bulk handling of materials has been introduced by Simon-Carves Ltd of Stockport. Named the Simporter, it is claimed to be considerably more economical, efficient and versatile than traditional mechanical and pneumatic unloaders, offering energy and cost savings to port authorities and other organisations concerned with the bulk transfer of granular materials.

The Simporter conveys granular materials 'sandwich fashion' between two moving belts held together at the edges by air pressure. Granular materials can be transported vertically, horizontally or at any intermediate angle without the necessity of transfer points. A high degree of operational flexibility is therefore inherent in the system. As the system handles the material without slippage, material degradation is for all practical purposes eliminated. Other advantages are that the unloader is virtually dust-free and quiet in operation.

Plants are designed to provide capacities to suit clients' requirements. The maximum capacity range is in excess of 2000 tonnes per hour which is well above the practical limits of pneumatic plants and many mechanical unloaders.

A typical Simporter single boom travelling intake plant consists of an overship gantry, from which is suspended a vertical leg and feeder, mounted on a steel superstructure which stands on a portal frame undercarriage. Multi-wheeled bogies are fitted to travel along the customer's quayside rails. The plant is operated from a control cabin positioned within the cranepost structure so as to command a view of the unloading operation. From the cabin the operator can control the luffing and slewing of the gantry, the 'kicking-in' and 'kicking-out' actions of the vertical leg, and the depth of the feeder in the material. Alternatively the plant can be controlled from a portable pendant push-button station on the ship's deck.

Discharging of grain from a ship's hold can be more efficient with Simporter system.



One of the important benefits of the Simporter, says the company, is its extremely low power requirements per tonne of material handled compared with pneumatic plants and with other types of mechanical unloaders. Another saving is in capital cost for plants with capacities in excess of 500 to 600 tonnes per hour. The simplicity of the double belt conveying system has made it possible to incorporate the Simporter into a structure which is lighter and cheaper than comparable traditional marine leg unloaders. As this low weight characteristic minimises quayside loadings, considerable savings in civil costs can be achieved.

A feature of the Simporter is the use of cartridge-type elements in the feeder. These can be replaced quickly and easily, facilitating selection from a range of elements to cater for the handling characteristics of the material to be unloaded. As the maintenance necessary is simpler than for other types of unloaders, it can be carried out in less time, thereby reducing costs and maximising serviceability.

Further information: circle 229

Bus ticket system based on microprocessor

Ticket Equipment Ltd is offering a ticket and statistical system to bus companies and their planners that is based on a microprocessor and provides both security and continuity. The Timtronic system is particularly suitable for one-man operated buses.

The equipment's memories contain the complete fare tables for the total route network. The driver merely keys in ticket class and fare stage as a passenger enters his vehicle, and the instantly computed correct fare is displayed to both passenger and driver. The system can issue weekly and season tickets, cancel return tickets and even work out tyre mileages. It has a fare range of up to 999.99 monetary units and provision for up to 16 classes.

Each driver is issued with a personal security card for insertion into an automatic computer entry (ACE) module, which supplants the conventional waybill and is inserted, in its turn, into the ticket-issuing machine. The system is complemented at the bus depot by an ACE reader and encoder.

At the start of his duty, the driver collects a numbered ACE module and inserts this, together with his security card, into the depot encoder. He then boards his vehicle, entering both route and journey number in his module, which then selects the appropriate fare table. As the bus moves down its route, the driver presses an 'upstage' button on his ticket-issuing machine as he passes each fare stage.

The ticket unit incorporates a second memory which cannot be removed and which records the number of the particular ACE in use. It also records opening cash balances so that totals can be cross-checked. At the end of his duty, the driver removes his ACE module which produces a complete print-out of every ticket issued at every stage, every change of route or journey, plus its time and date. The module's magnetic card recorder stores this information, together with its ACE number, for further processing at the depot.

All modules received from drivers on a particular day are correlated by the depot's ACE reader, which breaks down data for immediate use and also prepares a reconciliation statement for all drivers with cash totals for all vehicles. If these totals do not agree, the reason for any discrepancy can be ascertained from the depot reader's print-out. Finally, data may be transmitted from each bus depot to the company's head office or other centre for further analysis and processing.

Further information: circle 230

Printers' blankets that have more resiliency

A range of reduced fabric construction (RFC) printers' blankets which are more resilient and give better print quality, is being launched by Dunlop GRG Division, Skelmersdale. The new blankets are based on an entirely different technology incorporating higher strength synthetic fabrics with a specially formulated resilient interply layer of rubber.

Because of the methods employed in producing the carcases the RFC blankets are much less susceptible to pack-down, making it easier for use on the press. With improved resiliency the plate-blanket, blanket-impression pressures can also be appreciably reduced to obtain maximum contrast values.

These low operating pressures reduce plate wear and assist in improving the sheet release characteristics over the comparable conventional blanket where lighter weight stocks are employed. The synthetic fabrics and high solvent resistent rubbers also make the new blankets highly resistant to attack by wash solvents, particularly in the carcase.

The new range has been extensively tested on screen, line and solid work, using both conventional litho and dry offset printing processes. Throughout the test programme sheet sizes and stock types were varied successfully. There was evidence of good resistance to packing down and very sharp reproduction of screen and letter reversals were obtained.

The Dunlop RFC range is available in GP, multi-purpose, premium, heat set and ultra violet blankets, affording the printer advantages of the new construction with the well proven face formulations.

Further information: circle 231

European community news

Portuguese accession backed by Prime Minister

Portugal's application to join the EEC has the UK's full support Prime Minister Jim Callaghan told Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes on 15 November. Mr Callaghan wished Portugal success with its application.

President Eanes was in the UK on a state visit from 14 to 17 November. On the second day of his visit there was a plenary session at Downing Street, attended by the Portuguese President, the Prime Minister, and foreign secretary David Owen with his Portuguese counterpart Carlos Gagos.

Questions arising from Portugal's application to join the EEC were among the items for discussion.

During his visit, President Eanes met trade secretary John Smith and 11 top British businessmen.

At this meeting Mr Smith and his party discussed with the president ways and means of increasing two-way trade and furthering British investment in Portugal.

The businessmen were Mr H. B. Greenborough, president, CBI; Mr B. Rigby, deputy director general, CBI; Sir William Barlow, chairman, the Post Office; Sir John Clark, chairman and chief executive, The Plessey Co Ltd; Mr F. W. Edwards, deputy chairman, Humphreys and Glasgow; Lord Nelson, chairman, GEC; Sir Derek Ezra, chairman, National Coal Board; Mr K. J. Griffin, deputy chairman, British Shipbuilders; Mr K. R. Coulson, deputy managing director, Simon Carves; John Baring, chairman, Baring Bros and Co Ltd; and Mr C. M. Bell, managing director, J. and P. Coats Ltd.

Prime Minister James Callaghan and the Portuguese President at 10 Downing Street.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

Parliament

Buying British	383
Cutlery and flatware industry	383
Imports of blankets	385
Berne copyright convention	386
EIB loans	386
Balance of trade with EEC	387

Exhibition

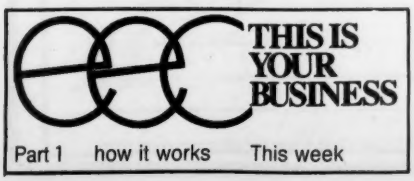
Düsseldorf stamp fair	404

Country data

Netherlands	409

Statistics

Current account of the UK balance of payments for October	411
Registrations of British, community and foreign films	427



Existing revenue sources for EEC budget inadequate

Existing revenue sources drawn on to finance the EEC budget will prove to be inadequate by 1981, states a European commission discussion paper now with the council and the European parliament. The commission believes a decision on where additional money is to come from has to be taken in time for the 1982 budget.

Present sources of revenue were laid down in a 1970 decision which was ratified by national parliaments – any change in the community's own resources would have to be decided in the same way. Current sources include customs duties, agricultural levies and the yield of a rate of up to 1 per cent of a harmonised VAT base.

The problem is that these resources are growing more slowly than gross national product (gnp), and the yield from customs duties is also declining in real terms. The commission's document therefore presents possible areas for new own resources: these range from an increase in the rate of VAT which the community might levy; taking a share of existing national taxes; or introducing a new tax.

Although the paper does not make specific proposals about any one source, it indicates that a rise in the level of VAT would be a simple way of tackling the problem. It also argues that the community should examine how useful it would be to introduce a progressive element into the budget, so that, as with an individual's income tax payments, 'a state with a higher per capita income than another has a progressively larger taxable capacity.'

The commission is also pressing for changes in the balance of community expenditure so that less is spent on agriculture and more in other sectors such as the regional and social funds.

Less spending on agriculture, which used up 70 per cent of the 1978 budget, would please the UK government (see the Prime Minister's statement, *Trade and Industry*, 17 November, page 310). If more were spent on the regional fund, for example, this would benefit the less prosperous areas of the UK, and would bring about a redistribution of community funds in the UK's favour.

The total size of the 1978 communities' budget is £8,000 million approximately, of which Britain will contribute 15 per cent. In the calendar year 1978, Britain's gross contribution is expected to be about £1,120 million. After taking into account receipts from community funds, the net contribution will be about £660 million. This amounts to less than 1 per cent of Britain's gdp and to about 2.6 per cent of central government expenditure.

The government estimates that by 1982, UK net transfers to the community budget will be £830 million.

Budget projections worked out by the economic policy committee, which are part of the concurrent studies connected with the proposed European monetary system, were discussed at the 20 November finance council. Heads of government at the Bremen Summit instructed the committee to carry these studies out.

'Jobs must be cornerstone of economic strategy' says conference

Higher job investment has to be the cornerstone of a future community economic strategy a tripartite conference concluded on 9 November in Brussels. The conference consisted of representatives of employers' and trade union organisations, the council, and the commission.

The conference generally agreed, however, that an adequate level of investment could

be achieved only if a slower rise in costs and adequate demand could be expected both at home and abroad.

To this end, the conference urged that the common strategy decided at the European council in Bremen and at the Bonn summit, aimed at strengthening economic growth and improving the employment situation, should be implemented at the earliest opportunity in every country. The December European council would provide an opportunity to make an initial assessment of the situation.

The conference felt that as world economic conditions had radically altered in recent years, compelling many firms to implement fundamental structural adjustments, member states and the community should promote research and development, and foster willingness to make structural changes, by appropriate framework conditions. Where such adjustments gave rise to mounting employment problems, subsidiary and temporary state adjustment aid was also needed.

To improve the employment situation, the conference said use should be made of the possibilities, and market opportunities available for public and private services, particularly since this could also lead to an improvement in the quality of life. Development programmes should therefore not be directed merely towards the needs of industry or the large industrial firms; they should also take full account of the services sector and the particular opportunities and risks for the small and medium-sized firm.

Differences in the level of development between the regions of the community had to be reduced, the conference recognised, particularly by mobilising unused productive resources in the less developed areas. The doubling of the capital of the European Investment Bank and the 80 per cent increase in the community regional fund endowment for 1978 to 1981 were important steps in this direction. The measures to support agriculture in the Mediterranean regions of the community were also a contribution.

The majority of those taking part agreed that every possibility of improving opportunities for youth employment not least in the public sector, had to be explored to the full.

In addition the conference suggested measures were required to assist special problem groups and more use should be made of the possibilities for part-time work and more suitable jobs offered. The workforce should be made more mobile and flexible through lasting efforts in the field of training, further training and retraining, the conference concluded.

Those attending the conference agreed that protectionism in external trade was to be avoided, since it could jeopardise millions of jobs throughout the EEC. They advocated therefore the continuation of free world trade and the abandonment of protectionist principles, particularly in the current Gatt negotiations. They expressed the hope that the USA and the other important industrial countries would do their utmost to ensure a successful outcome.

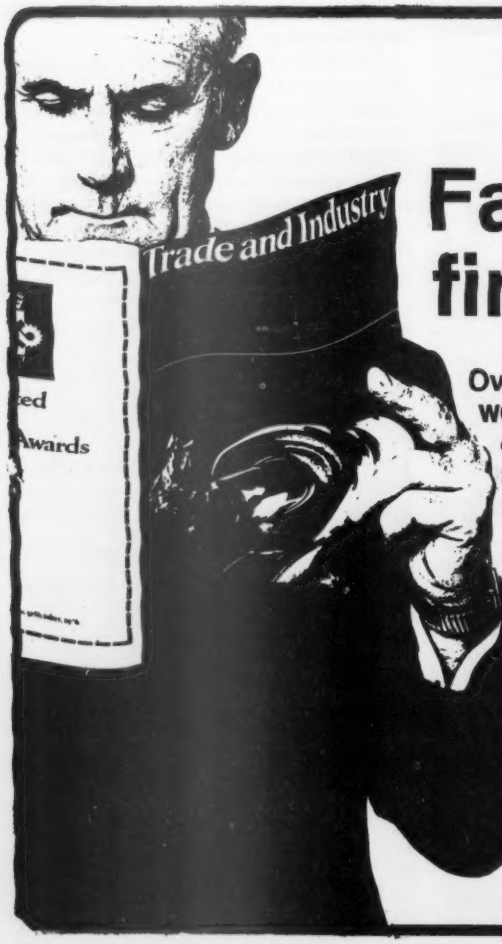
The commission was instructed to promote the development of the economic and employment situation on the basis of a document it had submitted on growth and employment policy, taking into account discussions at this conference, and in regular consultations with representatives from both sides of industry. It should examine in greater detail topics raised at the conference, and these should be discussed in the standing committee on employment and the economic policy committee. The following topics in particular should be discussed: prospects and opportunities for more part-time work; practical possibilities for reducing the working week and their impact on employment and economic growth; more job and training opportunities for young people and women; possibilities for greater flexibility on the labour market; extent and compatibility of employment premiums in the community; effect of external trade, in particular the increasing integration of the developing countries in the world economy, on the employment structure of the community; removal of barriers to job-creating investment; and importance for growth and employment of public investment in infrastructure.

Deadline extended for agriculture projects grants

Britain's agriculture departments can now receive applications for EEC grants to be used in the field of agricultural and fisheries production structures up to 31 November. The original deadline was 31 August.

These grants will be made under EEC regulation 17/64, and the extension results from a delay in this regulation coming into force. Marketing or processing projects are excluded as they are covered by regulation 355/77.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and



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Food emphasises, however, that there is no guarantee that applications submitted after 31 August will be considered by the EEC commission – this will depend upon the terms of the regulation when it is eventually passed by the council of ministers.

Intending applicants should also bear in mind that the fund is already heavily oversubscribed and that there is no intention of allocating more money to the fund because of this extension.

Further information is available from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Marketing Policy Division, Branch D, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, 01-216 6844 where completed application forms should also be sent.

Applicants in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should approach the appropriate agricultural departments in Cardiff, Edinburgh or Belfast respectively.

Value of Eua for 1979

The sterling value of the European unit of account (Eua) for 1979 for insurance purposes will be 69.0239 pence. This value should be used for the 12-month period beginning 31 December 1978 for calculations in connection with the application of insurance directives. The current sterling value of the Eua for insurance purposes is 65.1903 pence and is valid until 30 December.

Insurance directive 76/580/EEC states that the Eua figure as from 31 December each year will be its value on the latest day in the preceding October for which at the same time a value of all community currencies is published in the *Official Journal*. In the case of the UK this year it was quoted at 69.0239 pence.

EIB loan for Hull phone system

A loan equivalent to £1 million (1.5 million units of account) has been provided by the European Investment Bank, the European community's long-term finance institution, to help meet the cost of improvements to the telecommunications network in the Hull area. The loan has been granted to Kingston upon Hull City Council for 12 years at an interest rate of 9.5 per cent.

The work to be carried out will make possible about 18 000 new subscriber connections by spring 1981. It will also help to adapt the local network to a changing pattern of demand, linked to the creation of industrial zones and housing areas on the outskirts of the city.

Hull is the only area in the United Kingdom where the telephone network is not directly controlled by the Post Office, although it is operated under Post Office licence and is fully integrated with the Post Office national system. It is the last of several independent telephone services which in the early years were run by local authorities.

Brunner awarded Melchett fuel medal

Guido Brunner, commissioner of the European community responsible for energy policy, has been awarded this year's Melchett medal of the Institute of Fuel.

The award is made annually for outstanding work, whether in research, administration, construction, or other professional activity involving the scientific preparation or use of fuel, the results of which have recently been made available for the benefit of the community.

Mr Brunner received the medal at a ceremony in London on 16 November.

Britain is committed to enlargement – Owen

Britain is strongly committed to enlargement of the community, foreign secretary David Owen told the commons in his opening speech on the debate on enlargement on 14 November.

Reviewing the progress of negotiations so far, he said that Greece had made considerable progress over the past year, particularly on integration into the industrial customs union, the European Coal and Steel Community and Euratom, as well as on the principles of its entry into the pattern of the community's relations with third countries. Recently, the community had agreed on how Greece was to be incorporated into the community's institutions.

The main outstanding subjects, he said, were agriculture, free movement of labour and the length of the transitional period. These were difficult questions since other member states had major interests at stake. However, the government hoped that the main subjects of the negotiations would be tackled by the end of the year.

Work on certain areas would still have to be completed in the first half of next year, but the community should aim to sign an accession treaty with Greece by July. Allowing at least a year for ratification, that would mean probably formal entry on or before 1 January 1981.

Member states had endorsed the commission's conclusion in its opinion on Portugal that the political arguments for starting negotiations were overwhelming. Negotiations had opened last month and would probably take around two years. This would point to entry perhaps in 1982.

Dr Owen pointed out however that the community should be careful in negotiating the terms of Portugal's entry not to overstrain the Portuguese political and economic system. While Britain recognised Portugal's entry would create special problems, its support for it was firm. (See also page 393.)

Turning to Spain, Dr Owen said that the commission's opinion was now expected before the end of this year. Assuming that it was ready in time, he hoped that a decision could be taken by the council of ministers at its December meeting. Negotiations would again take about two years, and it was hoped that Spain would be ready to join at the same time as Portugal.

One problem, however, would be to ensure that Turkey did not become alienated from the community. He did not believe that Turkey would feel threatened by enlargement if the issue were handled carefully. It would also be beneficial if the Cyprus dispute could be resolved before 1981.

On the economic implications of enlargement, Dr Owen said that these would impact more on the applicants than on the present community. The applicant countries would, for example, add only 10 per cent to the community's gross domestic product. While overall the economic consequences for the community should be limited and acceptable, there would undoubtedly be problems for particular sectors and for certain community structures. Perhaps the most obvious consequence for the UK would be the possibility of increased competition from low-cost industrial exports, especially textiles and steel.

Although the government intended to negotiate safeguard measures to minimise disruption during the transition period, some of the UK's sensitive industries would inevitably face problems. But, in general, Britain's industrial exports stood to benefit from enlargement because of the easier access to the applicants' markets enlargement would bring.

It was, nonetheless, a blunt economic fact that the three applicants, especially Greece and Portugal, were likely to receive more from the community budget than they put in and this would mean an increase in the UK contribution. On the basis of various arbitrary assumptions, including no change in community policies or in the levels of agricultural production in the three applicant countries – and that was a fairly major assumption – the extra budgetary cost to the UK would be of the order of £90 million to £115 million a year at 1977 prices. This cost had to be seen against the net £660 million, the current estimate of the UK contribution to this year's budget.

Although Britain had the third lowest per capita gross domestic product in the community, it was the second highest contributor to the community budget. Britain would therefore be working to achieve a better balance, especially

in relation to agricultural expenditure, to curb the excessive UK net contribution. This was now a serious problem, irrespective of enlargement.

The EEC budget generally was likely to come under strain after enlargement. More calls would be made on the regional and social funds. The UK share of these funds might diminish. The integration of three economies, each with an important agriculture sector, would lead to more CAP expenditure unless this had already been reduced by negotiation, particularly by the reduction of current surpluses.

There was, however, no question of Britain 'renegotiating itself out of the common market at the earliest possible moment,' Dr Owen added. What was needed was structural and fundamental change in the impact of CAP. The government was not arguing that it should be scrapped but that CAP's impact on individual member states needed to be changed radically and the balance altered.

Mediterranean support

On the question of support for Mediterranean products, the foreign secretary told the house that many of these were products imported by the UK and if they could be produced efficiently and at low cost, that might be in Britain's interest.

Britain should not believe that an efficient Mediterranean agricultural section, as part of a more balanced form of community agricultural production of a community of 12, was necessarily against its interests. A commitment to increase expenditure on southern Mediterranean products without any reform of northern products would be dangerous. It could result in 80 per cent of the community budget being devoted to agriculture. That would be in no one's interest, he stressed.

Dr Owen, did not however advocate threatening to withdraw as a negotiating weapon. 'There are many aspects of the negotiating procedure where one member state can hold up progress in the community. 'I do not advocate adopting a veto system. However, it if becomes of national importance that a change is made, we may have to consider taking that position. Other countries have acted similarly in the past,' he said.

Turning to the problem of the economic impact of enlargement on the community's trading partners in the developing countries, especially in the Mediterranean, he said the latter would inevitably find the relative advantages that they enjoyed under the overall Mediterranean approach eroded, for example, Maghreb and Mashraq countries. There was a need for the community to work out with the countries most affected a strategy to overcome the difficulties that this would cause.

It was difficult to say at this stage what would be the impact of enlargement on the community's policy towards the developing countries generally. However, opposition to the community's generally liberal outlook might grow since the three newcomers had been traditionally more protectionist than the community. In addition, they might see themselves as having a claim on aid funds. The new Lomé arrangements being negotiated and decisions to increase aid to non-associates should ensure that no harm was done to the community's development policy over the next few years at least, but the picture in the long term was less clear, he pointed out.

The institutions of the community would also need to be examined to improve their efficiency, Dr Owen went on. He did not believe that that would be resolved by the increased use of majority voting. The real need was for the community to be able to work out decisions informally, with proper regard to the political realities of the community. Decisions could not be forced through mechanically. There was no need, he felt, to change the balance of the institutions. However, they needed streamlining.

Most of the community's problems were already there and needed solving anyway, irrespective of enlargement – the budget, which was top-heavy with agricultural spending, the inadequate regional policies, the traditional industries already in difficulties, relations with the Mediterranean countries already under strain, and the decision-making process, which was at times slow and cumbersome.

European monetary system

Moving on to a consideration of the European monetary system (EMS), Dr Owen said it would be a great mistake to limit the current consideration of EMS to the present members of the community. In the EMS discussions, the government had throughout insisted on the need to avoid putting the weaker currencies at risk from major speculative attack or of laying the burden of adjustment only on the weaker members.

This applied to those EEC countries that were not currently members of the snake. It would apply even more to the three candidate members, of whom the Greek government had already made clear that it would like to include the drachma in any system. All that the UK government had said about the need to make EMS truly durable and comprehensive applied with equal force to the new members.

The issue of a European monetary system was not, in his view, an issue of euro-principle but was one to be judged on practical, technical grounds. There was at present too much politics in its presentation. A scheme did not become viable merely by adding a dressing of euro-terminology – EMS, EMF and ECU, Dr Owen stressed.

The most important underlying problem facing any EMS, he felt, was the fact that the economies of the existing member countries diverged especially in their inflation and growth rates, and the working of the community budget did nothing to promote convergence of economic performance. Indeed, it was a factor for divergence, in that it transferred resources from some of the poorer to some of the wealthier member states. In the light of existing disparities of economic performance, excessive rigidity of exchange rates could have a deflationary impact on the weaker economies. This could make it harder to achieve the convergence of performance at the highest possible level of activity which was essential for the long-term future of the community.

There was a need, he went on, for adequate flexibility in exchange rate management within the system to guard against this danger. There was also a need for positive resource transfers to contribute to convergence. Currency stability was a desirable objective. Some had argued that this could come only from full-scale monetary union backed by large resource transfers. The UK wanted to ensure that a European monetary system did not fall between two stools, on the one hand imposing undue rigidity on exchange rates, with deflationary effects on the weaker economies, while on the other, failing to grasp the nettle of resource transfers adequate to overcome any such adverse impact.

Exchange rate rigidity

In trying to establish the necessary balance between exchange rate rigidity and action to compensate the weaker economies, the actual situation in existing member states and the three applicant countries had to be considered.

In the past year, Portugal had devalued its currency by about 30 per cent, Spain by nearly 25 per cent and Greece by nearly 10 per cent, against the European unit of account. Germany had revalued by 2.9 per cent. The likely need for future changes was indicated by the differing inflation rates: Portugal 8.9 per cent, Spain 21.3 per cent, and Greece 13.4 per cent and Germany currently 2.7 per cent.

These facts reinforced the conclusion that a narrow rigid European monetary system, modelled on the existing snake, would not be in the interests of a community of 12. The overall effects of all community policies had increasingly to be to promote convergence of economic performance between the member countries in contrast with present policies, such as the CAP, which were not designed to work for convergence.

'I am not saying that it is impossible to bring down inflation within a European monetary system. I do not hold that view. Properly constructed, I think that if we have the flexibility which I have suggested we will need on exchange rates and the resources available, it could add to the ability to bring down inflation. I think that a measure of currency stability is helpful.

Complicated issue

'The EMS is a highly complicated, technical and economic issue. I think that from the way the government has approached it, it is clear that this is how it sees the issue. It has strongly resisted judging it in terms of whether one is or is not a believer in the European community. Within the European community the seriousness of our negotiating position is becoming more apparent. I think that people must also take account of the fact that very few things would do more harm to the European community in this country than if Britain were to enter into a badly worked out monetary system which was not viable and did not last and we then had to withdraw, as happened on previous occasions with the snake,' he said.

Dr Owen said he thought it was important that policy changes should be made to contribute to convergency before enlargement took place. All the requirements that had been argued an EMS must meet to be lasting and effective were reinforced when considered in the context of enlargement and the needs of the candidate countries.

UK trade with EEC: first half 1978

Following recent generally favourable movements in Britain's trade balance with EEC, the first half of 1978 saw a sharp worsening in the visible deficit to £1,236 million – back to the high levels of 1975 (see table 1). Despite this adverse movement, the export/import ratio in the first half of the year, at 84 per cent, was, with the exception of 1977, at its highest level since 1971. The value of exports again rose modestly, by 6 per cent, between the second half of 1977 and the first six months of this year, to £6,515 million; imports, however, increased by 11 per cent in the first half of 1978 to £7,751 million, following the 5 per cent rise in the second half of last year. The growth of imports exceeded that of exports, on the latest half-yearly comparison, for the first time since the first half of 1975.

The worsening in the visible deficit with the EEC accounted for half of the £773 million movement into a deficit in the UK's overall visible balance between the second half of 1977 and the first half of 1978 (see table 2). The other marked change in trade by area was the swing from surplus to deficit in trade with the rest of western Europe, partly reflecting the pattern of arrivals of the more erratic items of trade. By contrast, the visible deficit with north America worsened following the reduced deficit of the previous half year, which was partly the result of the effects of the United State's east coast dock strike towards the end of last year. The surplus on trade with oil exporting countries and the rest of the world further improved.

Table 1 UK balance of trade with the EEC
Balance of payments basis

	Exports fob £m	Imports fob £m	Visible balance	Exports as a proportion of imports %
	Percentage change on previous period			
1970	2 347	2 308	+39	101.7
1971	2 511 (+7)	2 702 (+17)	−191	92.9
1972	2 835 (+13)	3 426 (+27)	−591	82.7
1973	3 944 (+39)	5 135 (+50)	−1 191	76.8
1974	5 581 (+42)	7 623 (+48)	−2 027	73.2
1975	6 273 (+12)	8 685 (+14)	−2 412	72.2
1976	9 052 (+44)	11 179 (+29)	−2 127	81.0
1977	11 878 (+31)	13 611 (+22)	−1 733	87.3
1975				
1st half	3 339	4 562	−1 223	73.2
1976				
1st half	4 167 (+25)	5 215 (+14)	−1 048	79.9
2nd half	4 885 (+17)	5 964 (+14)	−1 079	81.9
1977				
1st half	5 750 (+18)	6 631 (+11)	−881	86.7
2nd half	6 128 (+7)	6 980 (+5)	−852	87.8
1978				
1st half	6 515 (+6)	7 751 (+11)	−1 236	84.1

Trade by commodity

Table 3 gives a breakdown of Britain's trade with EEC by broad commodity group. This is not available on a balance of payments basis, but the commodities contributing to the overall deficit can be seen from the 'crude' balance of trade, ie the difference between exports fob and imports cif. Because of the differences in valuation, inter alia, this is not the most ideal measure of the balance of trade, but these crude balances are good indicators of the trends in the balances through time. A further difficulty arises with the half-yearly data in that the commodity detail is not available seasonally adjusted, and thus some of the movements in the crude balances, especially for certain food products, may be no more than normal seasonal fluctuations; for this reason the figures in the table must be used with caution. There is also a discontinuity in the statistics, mainly for food, as a result of a change in mid-1976 in the method of payment of monetary compensatory amounts.

The main changes by SITC section between the second half of 1977 and the first half of 1978 have been the increase in the deficit on the crude balance of trade in food and live animals, machinery and transport equipment and miscellaneous manufactures, partly offset by improvements in chemicals, beverages and tobacco, basic materials and fuels. These developments are described in more detail below.

Food and live animals (section 0)
The UK's crude trade deficit in food and live animals with the rest of the EEC in the first half of 1978 increased by £75 million to £711 million, by comparison with the previous half year, but the export/import ratio was little changed. An improvement in the balance on cereals was more than offset by increases in the deficit elsewhere, particularly on meat, while the balance for live animals swung from surplus to deficit.

The balance on meat and meat preparations worsened in the first half of this year, despite an increase in the surplus on sheepmeat: overall, a 5 per cent increase in exports was outweighed by a 17 per cent increase in imports.

The small reduction in the deficit on dairy products included sharply higher exports of milk and cream and of butter (where imports were also markedly higher), and also a reduced deficit in cheese, as a result of lower imports. Wheat imports, which were high in the second half of 1977, were reduced in the first half of this year, leading to an improvement of around £35 million in the crude deficit. Barley exports rose by four-fifths, and with imports falling by a similar proportion, the small surplus of the second half of last year was further improved – by £37 million. Higher shipments of maize arriving via the EEC in the first half of 1978 led to a small worsening in the deficit. The crude deficit in fruit and vegetables increased slightly to the average for 1977 as a whole.

The main change between the two latest half years was the increased arrivals of tomatoes and apples. Movements, partly seasonal, in the trade in sugar led to an increased deficit back to around the level of the first half of 1977, which reflected at that time greater imports of raw sugar. The increased imports in the first half of 1978 were of refined sugar.

Exports of live animals fell back in the first half of this year following very high levels in the second half of last year. The balance reverted to a deficit of £22 million from a surplus of £23 million in the previous half year. These movements reflect, in part, seasonal changes.

Beverages and tobacco (section 1)
The crude trade deficit in beverages and tobacco was reduced sharply from the previous half year (probably largely a seasonal movement), although it was below the level of the first half of 1977, reflecting increased exports of whisky and tobacco manufactures.

Basic materials (sections 2 and 4)
Following deficits in recent periods, there was a surplus in this sector as exports rose by 14 per cent, twice the increase in imports. Among generally small changes, the major improvement was an increased surplus for metalliferous ores and scrap. Trade in vegetable oil continues in small deficit.

Fuels (section 3)
Trade in fuels with the EEC is almost wholly in petroleum and petroleum products. Within petroleum and petroleum products, the sur-

Table 2 Uk balance of trade by area
Balance of payments basis

£ million

	EEC	Rest of western Europe	North America	Other developed countries	Oil exporters	Rest of world	Total
1970	+39	+178	−488	+147	−114	+199	−42
1971	−191	+115	−175	+221	−188	+479	+261
1972	−591	−41	−82	−157	−131	+280	+722
1973	−1 191	−283	−283	−208	−330	−88	−2 383
1974	−2 042	−358	−703	+98	−2 217	−13	−5 235
1975	−2 412	−71	−662	−15	−714	+638	−3 236
1976	−2 127	−2	−826	+13	−697	+50	−3 589
1977	−1 733	+245	−757	−388	+898	+26	−1 709
1976							
1st half	−1 048	−17	−314	+101	−309	+ 92	−1 499
2nd half	−1 079	+15	−512	−88	−388	−42	−2 090
1977							
1st half	−881	−57	−519	−229	+207	−198	−1 735
2nd half	−852	+302	−238	−159	+691	+224	+26
1978							
1st half	−1 236	−255	−478	−163	+857	+567	−747

UK balance of payments

Trade and Industry's regular monthly article on the current account of the UK's balance of payments appears in this issue on page 411.

Further important statistics on the EEC can be found in the regular article on the 'Economic indicators of the industrial countries.'

plus on trade in crude oil fell by £50 million, to £150 million, from the very high level of the second half of last year. Exports of crude oil, at £280 million, were 7 per cent lower than in the second half of 1977, although they were 13 per cent up on a year earlier. In contrast, imports of crude oil consigned from the EEC rose sharply between the second half of last year and the first half of 1978 to £130 million, although they were little above the level of a year earlier. Offsetting the change was a reduction in the deficit on petroleum products as imports fell faster than exports.

Manufactured goods (sections 5 to 8)
Imports of manufactures from the EEC in the first half of 1978 were up by 15 per cent compared with the previous half year – a slightly faster rise than the 13 per cent rise for exports. The crude deficit thus worsened – by about £50 million – from the comparatively large deficit in the second half of last year.

The crude balance of trade in chemicals improved by £46 million to a deficit of £8 million in the first half of 1978. The improvement in the balance was due to sharply higher exports of inorganic chemicals which produced a turnround of £65 million from deficit to surplus; the surplus on medicinal and pharmaceutical products showed a small increase. Higher imports of plastics outweighed increased exports, leading to a further worsening in the crude trade deficit in these materials.

The crude balance for 'other semi-manufactures' moved into a deficit of £23 million, with an increase in the deficit on textile yarns and a reduced surplus for non-ferrous metals. The deficit on textile yarns nearly doubled, to around £110 million, with imports rising by a quarter against around a rise of a tenth on exports in the first half of the year. For non-ferrous metals, exports fell in the first half of the year. There was little change in the balance on iron and steel, although the export/import ratio recovered a little. Increased imports were mainly of material ready prepared for manufacturing processes. The UK's substantial surplus on trade with the EEC in precious stones rose sharply in the first half of 1978, with a 22 per cent increase in exports compared with a 10 per cent rise in imports. The major UK market in the EEC is Belgium and Luxembourg who received 94 per cent of exports of precious stones in the first half of 1978.

The increase in the crude trade deficit with the rest of the EEC in machinery and transport equipment, from around £400 million in the second half of last year to £525 million in the first half of 1978, was spread over all the major categories. For machinery, the crude trade deficit for mechanical machinery more than doubled between the two latest half-years as imports rose by 19 per cent and exports by 11 per cent. The small deficit on office machinery was sharply increased as exports fell. For electrical machinery, the deficit virtually doubled, again reflecting modest export growth outpaced by higher imports. A major contribution to the worsened position for the sector as a whole came from road vehicles, where the deficit increased by almost £80 million, although the export/import ratio was virtually unchanged, with exports and imports each rising by around a quarter. Some part of the increase in imports is likely to reflect the tendency of multinational car companies to import vehicles made in their factories overseas to make up short-fall in home production, in order to retain their share of the home market. Imports of passenger motor cars in the second half of 1977 were £507 million (245 000 units) rising to £661 million (295 000 units) in the first half of 1978. The corresponding exports figures were £106 million (57 000 units) and £155 million (71 000 units). Export value thus grew faster than imports, although this in part reflected a recovery from the fall in the second half of last year. 'Other transport equipment', which includes ships and aircraft, and thus tends to be erratic, moved into a crude trade surplus of £54 million in the first half of 1978, reflecting higher exports of aircraft.

For miscellaneous manufactures (which are mainly consumer goods) exports rose modestly from a buoyant level in the second half of last year, but imports rose sharply leading to a deficit of £65 million. The deterioration was spread over a number of commodities including furniture, clothing, footwear and scientific instruments. Only clothing was in surplus in the first half of the year, despite a fall in exports.

Table 3 UK trade with the EEC by commodity
OTS basis

£ million

	Exports						Imports					
				1977		1978				1977		1978
SITC (R2) section	1975	1976	1977	H_1	H_2	H_1	1975	1976	1977	H_1	H_2	H_1
0 Food and live animals	456	570	823	342	481	551	1 926	1 993	2 267	1 149	1 118	1 262
of which												
01 Meat	130	164	217	93	124	131	439	501	618	300	318	370
02 Dairy products	35	88	64	37	27	80	447	413	350	172	178	225
04 Cereals	113	58	121	38	83	112	374	418	425	230	195	163
05 Fruit and veg	25	38	55	23	32	38	196	248	299	157	142	160
06 Sugar	20	26	31	16	15	18	171	84	101	64	37	62
1 Beverages and tobacco	110	146	183	81	102	113	176	219	259	112	147	133
2 Basic materials	282	406	460	242	218	258	265	438	476	266	210	226
3 Fuel	466	761	1 218	591	627	590	781	1 000	1 097	561	536	478
of which												
33 Petroleum and petroleum products	417	716	1 162	562	600	557	762	970	1 043	534	509	455
4 Vegetable oils	15	18	33	13	20	14	46	48	63	32	31	32
5 to 8 Manufactured goods	4 999	7 201	9 212	4 589	4 623	5 216	5 543	7 664	9 838	4 774	5 064	5 837
5 Chemicals	738	1 092	1 397	695	703	840	744	1 154	1 506	751	755	848
of which												
58 Plastics	115	198	246	128	118	131	178	332	406	203	203	233
6 Other semi-manufactures	1 357	2 123	2 684	1 378	1 306	1 489	1 537	2 005	2 521	1 224	1 297	1 512
of which												
667 Precious stones	275	476	633	318	315	394	129	187	279	137	142	156
67 Iron and steel	159	235	292	156	136	167	473	552	570	280	290	324
7 Machinery and transport equipment	2 327	3 144	3 978	1 988	1 991	2 232	2 553	3 573	4 609	2 215	2 394	2 758
of which												
71 to 74 Machinery	952	1 213	1 519	759	760	846	1 019	1 277	1 588	773	813	967
75 Office machines	273	365	456	212	244	233	289	383	478	226	252	267
76 and 77 Electrical machinery	348	468	611	297	314	338	398	519	632	333	350	402
78 Road vehicles	512	800	1 069	557	512	639	576	986	1 533	737	796	1 001
8 Miscellaneous manufactures	577	842	1 154	528	626	655	709	932	1 202	584	618	719
9 Other goods	160	148	222	118	104	117	136	149	170	91	79	91
Total 0-9	6 490	9 249	12 152	5 975	6 177	6 858	8 872	11 510	14 171	6 985	7 186	8 057

	Crude balance						Export/import ratio					
				1977		1978				1977		1978
SITC (R2) section	1975	1976	1977	H_1	H_2	H_1	1975	1976	1977	H_1	H_2	H_1
0 Food and live animals	−1 470	−1 423	−1 443	−807	−636	−711	24	29	36	30	43	44
of which												
01 Meat	−310	−336	−401	−208	−193	−239	30	33	35	31	39	35
02 Dairy products	−412	−324	−286	−134	−151	−145	8	21	18	22	15	36
04 Cereals	−261	−360	−305	−192	−113	−51	30	14	28	17	42	69
05 Fruit and veg	−171	−210	−244	−134	−111	−122	13	15	18	15	22	24
06 Sugar	−152	−58	−70	−48	−22	−44	12	31	31	25	41	29
1 Beverages and tobacco	−66	−73	−76	−31	−45	−21	63	57	71	72	59	84
2 Basic materials	+17	−32	−16	−25	+9	+32	106	93	96	91	103	114
3 Fuel	−315	−238	+118	+30	+88	+112	60	76	111	105	117	123
of which												
33 Petroleum and petroleum products	−345	−254	+119	+28	+91	+102	55	74	111	105	118	122
4 Vegetable oils	−30	−30	−30	−19	−11	−18	33	38	52	41	65	44
5 to 8 Manufactured goods	−544	−463	−626	−185	−447	−621	90	94	94	96	91	89
5 Chemicals	−6	−62	−110	−55	−55	−8	99	95	93	93	93	99
of which												
58 Plastics	−63	−134	−160	−75	−85	−102	65	60	60	63	58	56
6 Other semi-manufactures	−180	+119	+163	+154	+9	−23	88	106	106	113	101	98
of which												
667 Precious stones	+146	+289	+354	+181	+173	+238	213	255	227	232	222	253
67 Iron and steel	−315	−317	−278	−125	−153	−157	34	43	51	56	47	52
7 Machinery and transport equipment	−226	−430	−631	−227	−404	−525	91	88	86	90	33	81
of which												
71 to 74 Machinery	−67	−64	−70	−15	−55	−121	93	95	96	98	93	87
75 Office machines	−15	−18	−23	−15	−8	−33	94	95	95	94	97	87
76 and 77 Electrical machinery	−50	−51	−71	−37	−34	−63	87	90	89	89	90	84
78 Road vehicles	−64	−186	−464	−180	−284	−362	89	81	70	76	65	64
8 Miscellaneous manufactures	−132	−91	−48	−56	+8	−65	81	90	96	90	101	91
9 Other goods	+24	−1	+52	+27	+25	+27	118	99	131	130	132	129
Total 0-9	−2 383	−2 261	−2 020	−1 004	−1 016	−1 199	73	80	86	86	86	85

Company mergers: third directive adopted

The EEC council of ministers adopted the third directive on the harmonisation of company law on 9 October. The directive is concerned only with mergers between public companies registered in the same member state; it does not deal with cross-frontier mergers.

It is also concerned with mergers of the share exchange type and not with the takeover, which is the most common form of merger in the UK. The directive will therefore have more of a limited impact in the UK than either the second directive on company capital or the fourth directive on company accounts.

Member states will have three years in which to implement the directive, and it is intended that it will be implemented into company law in a self contained section of the Company Acts leaving the 'takeover' form of merger and other means of reconstruction and amalgamations intact. The text of the directive is published below.

Article 1

Scope

The co-ordination measures laid down by this directive shall apply to the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the member states relating to the following types of company: (other member states requirements are listed).

2 The member states need not apply this directive to co-operatives incorporated as one of the types of company listed in paragraph 1. Insofar as the laws of the member states make use of this option, they shall require such companies to include the word 'co-operative' in all the documents referred to in article 4 of directive 68/151/EEC.

3 The member states need not apply this directive in cases where the company or companies which are being acquired or will cease to exist are the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, proceedings relating to the winding-up of insolvent companies, judicial arrangements, compositions and analogous proceedings.

Chapter 1: regulation of merger by the acquisition of one or more companies by another and of merger by the formation of a new company

Article 2

The member states shall, as regards companies governed by their national laws, make provision for rules governing merger by the acquisition of one or more companies by another and merger by the formation of a new company.

Article 3

1 For the purposes of this directive, 'merger by acquisition' shall mean the operation whereby one or more companies are wound up without going into liquidation and transfer to another all their assets and liabilities in exchange for the issue to the shareholders of the company or companies being acquired of shares in the acquiring company and a cash payment, if any, not exceeding 10 per cent of the nominal value of the shares so issued or, where they have no nominal value, of their accounting par value.

2 A member state's laws may provide that merger by acquisition may also be effected where one or more of the companies being acquired is in liquidation, provided that this option is restricted to companies which have not yet begun to distribute their assets to their shareholders.

Article 4

1 For the purposes of this directive, 'merger by the formation of a new company' shall mean the operation whereby several companies are wound up without going into liquidation and transfer to a company that they set up all their assets and liabilities in exchange for the issue to their shareholders of shares in the new company and a cash payment, if any, not exceeding 10 per cent of the nominal value of the shares so issued or, where they have no nominal value, of their accounting par value.

2 A member state's laws may provide that merger by the formation of a new company may also be effected where one or more of the companies which are ceasing to exist is in liquidation, provided that this option is restricted to companies which have not yet begun to distribute their assets to their shareholders.

Chapter 2: merger by acquisition

Article 5

1 The administrative or management bodies of the merging companies shall draw up draft terms of merger in writing.

2 Draft terms of merger shall specify at least:

a the type, name and registered office of each of the merging companies;

b the share exchange ratio and the amount of any cash payment;

c the terms relating to the allotment of shares in the acquiring company;

d the date from which the holding of such shares entitles the holders to participate in profits and any special conditions affecting that entitlement;

e the date from which the transactions of the company being acquired shall be treated for accounting purposes as being those of the acquiring company;

f the rights conferred by the acquiring company on the holders of shares to which special rights are attached and the holders of securities other than shares, or the measures proposed concerning them;

g any special advantage granted to the experts referred to in article 10(1) and members of the merging companies' administrative, management, supervisory or controlling bodies.

Article 6

Draft terms of merger must be published in the manner prescribed by the laws of each member state in accordance with article 3 of directive 68/151/EEC, for each of the merging companies, at least one month before the date fixed for the general meeting which is to decide thereon.

Article 7

1 A merger shall require at least the approval of the general meeting of each of the merging companies. The laws of the member states shall provide that this decision shall require a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes attaching either to the shares or to the subscribed capital represented.

The laws of a member state may, however, provide that a simple majority of the votes specified in the first subparagraph shall be sufficient when at least half of the subscribed capital is represented. Moreover, where appropriate, the rules governing alterations to the memorandum and articles of association shall apply.

2 Where there is more than one class of shares, the decision concerning a merger shall be subject to a separate vote by at least each class of shareholders whose rights are affected by the transaction.

3 The decision shall cover both the approval of the draft terms of merger and any alterations to the memorandum and articles of association necessitated by the merger.

Article 8

The laws of a member state need not require approval of the merger by the general meeting of the acquiring company if the following conditions are fulfilled:

a the publication provided for in article 6 must be effected, for the acquiring company, at least one month before the date fixed for the general meeting of the company or companies being acquired which are to decide on the draft terms of merger;

b at least one month before the date specified in a, all shareholders of the acquiring company must be entitled to inspect the documents specified in article 11(1) at the registered office of the acquiring company;

c one or more shareholders of the acquiring company holding a minimum percentage of the subscribed capital must be entitled to require that a general meeting of the acquiring company be called to decide whether to approve the merger. This minimum percentage may not be fixed at more than 5 per cent. The member states may, however, provide for the exclusion of non-voting shares from this calculation.

Article 9

The administration or management bodies of each of the merging companies shall draw up a detailed written report explaining the draft terms of merger and setting out the legal and economic grounds for them, in particular the share exchange ratio.

The report shall also describe any special valuation difficulties which have arisen.

Article 10

1 One or more experts, acting on behalf of each of the merging companies but independent of them, appointed or approved by a judicial or administrative authority, shall examine the draft terms of merger and draw up a written report to the shareholders. However, the laws of a member state may provide for the appointment of one or more independent experts for all the merging companies, if such appointment is made by a judicial or administrative authority at the joint request of those companies. Such experts may, depending on the laws of each member state, be natural or legal persons or companies or firms.

2 In the report mentioned in paragraph 1 the experts must in any case state whether in their opinion the share exchange ratio is fair and reasonable. Their statement must at least:

a indicate the method or methods used to arrive at the share exchange ratio proposed;

b state whether such method or methods are adequate in the case in question, indicate the values arrived at using each such method and give an opinion on the relative importance attributed to such methods in arriving at the value decided on.

The report shall also describe any special valuation difficulties which have arisen.

3 Each expert shall be entitled to obtain from the merging companies all relevant information and documents and to carry out all necessary investigations.

Article 11

1 All shareholders shall be entitled to inspect at least the following documents at the registered office at least one month before the date fixed for the general meeting which is to decide on the draft terms of merger:

a the draft terms of merger;

b the annual accounts and annual reports of the merging companies for the preceding three financial years;

c an accounting statement drawn up as a date which must not be earlier than the first day of the third month preceding the date of the draft terms of merger, if the latest annual accounts relate to a financial year which ended more than six months before that date;

d the reports of the administrative or management bodies of the merging companies provided for in article 9;

e the reports provided for in article 10.

2 The accounting statement provided for in paragraph 1c shall be drawn up using the same methods and the same layout as the last annual balance sheet.

However, the laws of a member state may provide that:

a it shall not be necessary to take a fresh physical inventory;

b the valuations shown in the last balance sheet shall be altered only to reflect entries in the books of account; the following shall nevertheless be taken into account:

interim depreciation and provisions,

material changes in actual value not shown in the books.

3 Every shareholder shall be entitled to obtain, on request and free of charge, full or, if so desired, partial copies of the documents referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 12

Protection of the rights of the employees of each of the merging companies shall be regulated in accordance with directive 77/187/EEC.

Article 13

1 The laws of the member states must provide for an adequate system of protection of the interests of creditors of the merging companies whose claims antedate the publication of the draft terms of merger and have not fallen due at the time of such publication.

2 To this end, the laws of the member states shall at least provide that such creditors shall be entitled to obtain adequate safeguards where the financial situation of the merging companies makes such protection necessary and where those creditors do not already have such safeguards.

3 Such protection may be different for the creditors of the acquiring company and for those of the company being acquired.

Article 14

Without prejudice to the rules governing the collective exercise of their rights, article 13 shall apply to the debenture holders of the merging companies, except where the merger has been approved by a meeting of the debenture holders, if such a meeting is provided for under national laws, or by the debenture holders individually.

Article 15

Holders of securities, other than shares, to which special rights are attached, must be given rights in the acquiring company at least equivalent to those they possessed in the company being acquired, unless the alteration of those rights has been approved by a meeting of the holders of such securities, if such a meeting is provided for under national laws, or by the holders of those securities individually, or unless the holders are entitled to have their securities repurchased by the acquiring company.

Article 16

1 Where the laws of a member state do not provide for judicial or administrative preventive supervision of the legality of mergers, or where such supervision does not extend to all the legal acts required for a meger, the minutes of the general meetings which decide on the merger and, where appropriate, the merger contract subsequent to such general meetings shall be drawn up and certified in due legal form. In cases where the merger need not be approved by the general meetings of all the merging companies, the draft terms of merger must be drawn up and certified in due legal form.

2 The notary or the authority competent to draw up and certify the document in due legal form must check and certify the existence and validity of the legal acts and formalities required of the company for which he or it is acting and of the draft terms of merger.

Article 17

The laws of the member states shall determine the date on which a merger takes effect.

Article 18

1 A merger must be publicised in the manner prescribed by the laws of each member state, in accordance with article 3 of

directive 68/151/EEC, in respect of each of the merging companies.
2 The acquiring company may itself carry out the publication formalities relating to the company or companies being acquired.

Article 19
1 A merger shall have the following consequences *ipso jure* and simultaneously:
a the transfer, both as between the company being acquired and the acquiring company and as regards third parties, to the acquiring company of all the assets and liabilities of the company being acquired;
b the shareholders of the company being acquired become shareholders of the acquiring company;
c the company being acquired ceases to exist.
2 No shares in the acquiring company shall be exchanged for shares in the company being acquired held either
a by the acquiring company itself or through a person acting in his own name but on its behalf, or
b by the company being acquired itself or through a person acting in his own name but on its behalf.
3 The foregoing shall not affect the laws of member states which require the completion of special formalities for the transfer of certain assets, rights and obligations by the acquired company to be effective as against third parties. The acquiring company may carry out these formalities itself; however, the laws of the member states may permit the company being acquired to continue to carry out these formalities for a limited period which cannot, save in exceptional cases, be fixed at more than six months from the date on which the merger takes effect.

Article 20
The laws of the member states shall at least lay down rules governing the civil liability towards the shareholders of the company being acquired of the members of the administrative or management bodies of that company in respect of misconduct on the part of members of those bodies in preparing and implementing the merger.

Article 21
The laws of the member states shall at least lay down rules governing the civil liability towards the shareholders of the company being acquired of the experts responsible for drawing up on behalf of that company the report referred to in article 10(1) in respect of misconduct on the part of those experts in the performance of their duties.

Article 22
1 The laws of the member states may lay down nullity rules for mergers in accordance with the following conditions only:
a nullity must be ordered in a court judgment;
b mergers which have taken effect pursuant to article 17 may be declared void only if there has been no judicial or administrative preventive supervision of their legality, or if they have not been drawn up and certified in due legal form, or if it is shown that the decision of the general meeting is void or voidable under national law;
c nullification proceedings may not be initiated more than six months after the date on which the merger becomes effective as against the person alleging nullity or if the situation has been rectified;
d where it is possible to remedy a defect liable to render a merger void, the competent court shall grant the companies involved a period of time within which to rectify the situation;
e a judgment declaring a merger void shall be published in the manner prescribed by the laws of each member state in accordance with article 3 of directive 68/151/EEC;
f where the laws of a member state permit a third party to challenge such a judgment, he may do so only within six months of publication of the judgment in the manner prescribed by directive 68/151/EEC;
g a judgment declaring a merger void shall not of itself affect the validity of obligations owed by or in relation to the acquiring company which arose before the judgment was published and after the date referred to in article 17;
h companies which have been parties to a merger shall be jointly and severally liable in respect of the obligations of the acquiring company referred to in g.
2 By way of derogation from paragraph 1a, the laws of a member state may also provide for the nullity of a merger to be ordered by an administrative authority if an appeal against such a decision lies to a court. Subparagraphs 'b', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g' and 'h' shall apply by analogy to the administrative authority. Such nullification proceedings may not be initiated more than six months after the date referred to in Article 17.
3 The foregoing shall not affect the laws of the member states on the nullity of a merger pronounced following any supervision other than judicial or administrative preventive supervision of legality.

Chapter 3: merger by formation of a new company

Article 23
1 Articles 5, 6, 7 and 9 to 22 shall apply, without prejudice to articles 11 and 12 of directive 68/151/EEC, to merger by formation of a new company. For this purpose, 'merging companies' and 'company being acquired' shall mean the companies which will cease to exist, and 'acquiring company' shall mean the new company.
2 Article 5(2)(a) shall also apply to the new company.
3 The draft terms of merger and, if they are contained in a separate document, the memorandum or draft memorandum of association and the articles or draft articles of association of the new company shall be approved at a general meeting of each of the companies that will cease to exist.
4 The member states need not apply to the formation of a new company the rules governing the verification of any consideration other than cash which are laid down in article 10 of directive 77/91/EEC.

Chapter 4: acquisition of one company by another which holds 90 per cent or more of its shares

Article 24
The member states shall make provision, in respect of companies governed by their laws, for the operation whereby one or more companies are wound up without going into liquidation and transfer all their assets and liabilities to another company which is the holder of all their shares and other securities conferring the right to vote at general meetings. Such operations shall be regulated by the provisions of chapter 2, with the exception of articles 5(2)(b), (c) and (d), 9, 10, 11(1)(d) and (e), 19(1)(b), 20 and 21.

Article 25
The member states need not apply article 7 to the operations specified in article 24 if the following conditions at least are fulfilled:
a the publication provided for in article 6 must be effected, as regards each company involved in the operation, at least one month before the operation takes effect;
b at least one month before the operation takes effect, all shareholders of the acquiring company must be entitled to inspect the documents specified in article 11(1)(a), (b) and (c) at the company's registered office. Article 11(2) and (3) must apply;
c article 8(c) must apply.

Article 26
The member states may apply articles 24 and 25 to operations whereby one or more companies are wound up without going into liquidation and transfer all their assets and liabilities to another company, if all the shares and other securities specified in article 24 of the company or companies being acquired are held by the acquiring company and/or by persons holding those shares and securities in their own names but on behalf of that company.

Article 27
In cases of merger where one or more companies are acquired by another company which holds 90 per cent or more, but not all, of the shares and other securities of each of those companies the holding of which confers the right to vote at general meetings, the member states need not require approval of the merger by the general meeting of the acquiring company, provided that the following conditions at least are fulfilled:
a the publication provided for in article 6 must be effected, as regards the acquiring company, at least one month before the date fixed for the general meeting of the company or companies being acquired which is to decide on the draft terms of merger;
b at least one month before the date specified in 'a', all shareholders of the acquiring company must be entitled to inspect the documents specified in article 11(1)(a), (b) and (c) at the company's registered office. Article 11(2) and (3) must apply;
c article 8(c) must apply.

Article 28
The member states need not apply articles 9 to 11 to a merger within the meaning of article 27 if the following conditions at least are fulfilled:
a the minority shareholders of the company being acquired must be entitled to have their shares acquired by the acquiring company;
b if they exercise that right, they must be entitled to receive consideration corresponding to the value of their shares;
c in the event of disagreement regarding such consideration, it must be possible for the value of the consideration to be determined by a court.

Article 29
The member states may apply articles 27 and 28 to operations whereby one or more companies are wound up without going into liquidation and transfer all their assets and liabilities to another company if 90 per cent or more, but not all, of the shares and other securities referred to in article 27 of the company or companies being acquired are held by that acquiring company and/or by persons holding those shares and securities in their own names but on behalf of that company.

Chapter 5: other operations treated as mergers

Article 30
Where in the case of one of the operations referred to in article 2 the laws of a member state permit a cash payment to exceed 10 per cent, chapters 2 and 3 and articles 27, 28 and 29 shall apply.

Article 31
Where the laws of a member state permit one of the operations referred to in articles 2, 24 and 30, without all of the transferring companies thereby ceasing to exist, chapter 2, except for article 19(1)(c), chapter 3 or chapter 4 shall apply as appropriate.

Chapter 6: final provisions

Article 32
1 The member states shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary for them to comply with this directive within three years of its notification. They shall forthwith inform the commission thereof.
2 However, provision may be made for a delay of five years from the entry into force of the provisions referred to in paragraph 1 for the application of those provisions to unregistered companies in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
3 The member states need not apply articles 13, 14 and 15 as regards the holders of convertible debentures and other convertible securities if, at the time when the laws, regulations and administrative provisions referred to in paragraph 1 come into force, the position of these holders in the event of a merger has previously been determined by the conditions of issue.
4 The member states need not apply this directive to mergers or to operations treated as mergers for the preparation or execution of which an act or formality required by national law has already been completed when the provisions referred to in paragraph 1 enter into force.

Article 33
This directive is addressed to the member states.

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Overseas trade news

UK and China agree on two-way trade

China and the UK are planning on achieving two-way trade totalling $8 to $10 billion, approximately £4 to £5 billion, by the end of 1985. This is the aim of an economic co-operation agreement which the two governments have agreed in principle to conclude.

This was announced at the end of vice-premier Wang Chen's 6 to 17 November visit to the UK. A draft of the agreement has been given to the Chinese mission. Industry secretary Eric Varley will visit China early in 1979 to discuss projects to carry this agreement forward.

The vice-premier, who visited the UK at industry secretary Eric Varley's invitation, had fruitful discussions on a wide range of political, economic, commercial and industrial issues with the Prime Minister, the secretaries of state for industry, trade, energy and foreign and commonwealth affairs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was also entertained by the Duke of Kent, the secretaries of state for transport and Scotland and the Lord Privy Seal.

Purpose

Wang Chen's purpose in visiting the UK was to make a general survey of British industry and of the prospects for increased trade between Britain and China. He had discussions with representatives of British industry and commerce and visited enterprises throughout the country, including British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce, British Shipbuilders, British Petroleum and the Department of Energy's Offshore Supplies Office, International Computers, GEC-Marconi and Ferranti. The visit also reflected the rapidly developing economic and political relations between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China.

There was agreement too on the importance of developing industrial and technical co-operation in a number of specific fields including: power generation and transmission; mining, processing and exploration of coal, non-ferrous and ferrous metals and other raw materials; advanced technology equipment; machine tools; steel; metallurgical industry plant and services; agricultural machinery, irrigation systems and food processing; ships and hovercraft; shipyards, ports, railways, airports; engineering complexes; exploration and exploitation of oil and gas, chemical plant, petrochemical plant and services; aerospace. It was agreed that the opportunities opened up during the visit in these areas should be explored in detail in further specialised and technical missions.

Defensive equipment was discussed and the UK indicated its readiness to consider supplying certain types of defensive equipment subject to consultation with its allies.

The present aggregate level of UK trade with China is under £200 million a year.

On 15 November foreign secretary David Owen and Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, signed a scientific and technological co-operation and allied protocol agreement with the Chinese. Wang Chen, and Liu Hua-Ch'ing, Chinese vice-minister of the Chinese Scientific and Technological Commission, signed for their country.

The document provides a broad and flexible framework for increased commercial and industrial links with China. Co-operation is to be developed by the promotion of visits by scientists, educationalists and industrialists; the exchange of students; organisation of scientific and technological conferences; the exchange of industrial knowledge and technology; and research and development co-operation and any other form of scientific and technological co-operation which may be agreed.

Contacts encouraged

The agreement makes it clear that contacts will be encouraged at both governmental and non-governmental level, so that co-operation which already exists, such as the arrangements between the Royal Society and the Chinese Academy of Science, is accommodated. The protocol sets out a number of fields in both fundamental science and applied science and technology sectors which might be explored for possibilities of co-operation. The list of subjects is of interest to a large number of government departments and institutions, covering fields in the energy, agricultural, educational and industrial sectors.

Signing the scientific and technological agreement are (seated from left to right), Wang Chen, Chinese vice-premier, foreign secretary David Owen, and Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State, Department of Industry.

UK-GDR joint commission points to potential trade areas

Both delegations to the fifth annual session of the UK-German Democratic Republic Joint Commission held from 10 to 15 November noted that the level of trade was less than the potential offered by two industrial economies and expressed a wish to encourage an increase in trade.

The delegations thought that there were particularly promising prospects in chemical and petrochemical construction, automation, and machinery industries and also that there were areas where it would be possible to develop existing contacts in the fields of scientific and technical co-operation, particularly in the chemical agricultural and corrosion protection fields. Additionally, particular difficulties and obstacles to the growth of trade were discussed.

Chairmen

The commission was held under the joint chairmanship of Rex Browning, Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade, and Mr J. Steyer, Director General, GDR Ministry of Foreign Trade. The UK delegation included industrial representatives from the chemical, automotive and construction industries as well as government officials.

The joint commission reviewed progress both on the general development of trade and the development of economic, industrial, technological and scientific co-operation between the two countries. It also examined prospects for further development and diversification in these fields during the coming year.

The next meeting of the joint commission will be held in Berlin during the fourth quarter of 1979.

Debriefing on Moroccan mission

Members of the Committee for Middle East Trade (Comet) returned last month from a top-level mission to Morocco.

A debriefing meeting on the mission's findings will be held at the Confederation of British Industry, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 at 14.30, 29 November.

London chamber plans two 1979 Middle East missions

Two trade missions are being planned by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the Middle East area.

The first, to Egypt from 27 April to 4 May 1979, is intended as a follow-up to the chamber's mission to Egypt in May 1978 which was planned to take advantage of opportunities for British business generated by Egypt's new 'open door' policy and the reopening of the Suez Canal, as well as the rebuilding of the Suez Canal zone and the construction of Egypt's new towns.

The 1979 mission hopes, says the chamber, to take advantage of the rapidly expanding Egyptian market in which UK exports have risen from £27 million in 1973 to £190 million in 1977.

The mission's emphasis will be on a wide variety of equipment in most sectors of economy, including: machine tools; agricultural machinery; equipment for road making; transport equipment, including railways; electric and telecommunication equipment; and all types of building materials. The importance of the agricultural, engineering and defence related industries must be stressed.

The second mission will be to the Lebanon, Syria and Jordan from 18 June to 5 July 1979. The chamber says that in spite of current problems in Lebanon, there is still a reasonably good market for consumer goods, hardware, foodstuffs, appliances, certain building materials and light industrial supplies.

This is intended as a follow-up to the London chamber mission again in May which reported encouraging practical results.

Jordan is a market where, the chamber reports, UK exports have been increasing steadily, particularly in the areas of capital goods and textiles.

Since the resumption of diplomatic relations with the UK in May 1973, Syria has made moves to diversify trade and reduce her dependence on the Communist bloc. This has opened up a potentially valuable market for the UK and its trade has increased substantially as a result.

Malaysian minister meets trade secretary

Paul Leong, Malaysian Minister for Primary Industries met Secretary of State for Trade John Smith in London on 16 November. Mr Leong spent four days in London on his way to the EEC-Asean meeting in Brussels on 20 November.

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Further details on both these missions can be obtained from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444.

BOTB receives Dubai award

Bob Simmons (left), who works for the British Overseas Trade Board, receives an award for the British joint venture at the recent Middle East construction exhibition from Oscar Mandody of the Ruler's office of the government of Dubai. The award – one of three to various exhibitors – was given to BOTB as representatives of the largest national participation at the exhibition which was held from 29 October to 4 November.

Mrs Hart attends Paris development meeting

Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, led the British delegation at the two-day high level meeting of OECD's development assistance committee held on 14 and 15 November.

Major topics of discussion at this meeting of development ministers of the world's industrialised countries included current trends in the aid field and prospects for the new international development strategy; ways of increasing the volume and effectiveness of aid; and questions concerned with interdependence between north and south.

After the DAC meeting, Mrs Hart remained in Paris for discussions on the mass media at the twentieth general conference of Unesco.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1716: non-leather footwear from Taiwan

Notices to importers 1628 and 1638 (*Trade and Industry*, 26 August and 30 September 1977), set out the arrangements for the importation into the UK of non-leather footwear originating in Taiwan. The goods affected are as follows:

Tariff heading/Description of goods
64.01 Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or artificial plastic material.
ex 64.02 Footwear *other than footwear with uppers of leather.*

In anticipation that these arrangements will be continued in 1979 and that the quota level will not be less than that established for 1978, importers are now invited to submit applications for an allocation from any quota which might be established.

Licensing arrangements

It is envisaged that such a quota will be administered by the Import Licensing Branch and will be allocated to importers on the basis of their past trade. Importers seeking an allocation from the 1979 quota should send their applications, on form ILB/A, to reach Import Licensing Branch at the address shown above *not later than 15 December 1978*. Applications should also be accompanied by statements of past trade for each of the years 1975, 1976, 1977 and the period 1 January to 31 October 1978, supported by a report by a qualified, practising, independent accountant. Proformas for this purpose are obtainable from Import Licensing Branch and applications will only be dealt with on receipt of properly completed forms. Statements of past trade are being called for to allow for any importers with past trade who did not apply for an allocation from the 1977/78 quotas but who wish to be considered for 1979. Importers should not therefore finally confirm orders until they have been notified of their allocation.

Letters of credit

Traders are reminded that current exchange control regulations in respect of goods subject to quantitative restrictions prohibit banks from opening letters of credit, or amending those subsisting, unless they are satisfied that a valid import licence has been issued for such goods.

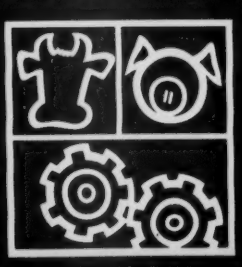
Re-exports

Applications for licences for the import of footwear other than with uppers of leather intended for re-export will be considered separately against satisfactory evidence.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 301/311.

agromek

International exhibition of agricultural mechanization equipment, cattle and pigs.



Advanced technical machinery and equipment and elite breeding animals - cattle and pigs - will welcome you in the 12 halls covering 45,000 sq.m. at the Exhibition Centre of Herning.

Agromek '79 presents the entire agricultural machinery and mechanization trade in one common exhibition which enables both Danish and foreign buyers to get an overall survey of the market.

Exhibition of elite breeding animals including approx. 100 head of cattle and approx. 30 pigs from the best Danish herds.

Agromek '79 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information about Agromek '79 can be obtained from the Secretariat: Agromek '79, 35 D Holmetoften, DK-8270 Højbjerg, Denmark.

Organizers:
Danish Manufacturers of Internal Agricultural Mechanization Equipment,
The Association of Danish Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery and
The Danish Farmers Association.

23-27 January 1979 in Herning - Denmark

Overseas trade exhibitions

UK stamps its presence on philatelic fair

From G. Rogers, British consulate general, Düsseldorf

Essen's fair authorities reported an unprecedented 91 000 visitors at the end of the second international stamp fair which was held from 1 to 5 November.

Three halls were taken by 90 dealers from France, West Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, East Germany, Finland, Jersey, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and United States.

In addition, there was a British joint venture of 29 dealers sponsored by the Philatelic Traders Society and the British Overseas Trade Board.

Britain not only had the largest foreign group of dealers at Essen but also provided undoubtedly the greatest stamp sensation to be recorded in the federal republic in recent years, namely, the unique display by the British Library of the red and blue Mauritius stamps.

These stamps, insured for £1.5 million, gave a fine setting to the replicas of the crown jewels which were also shown.

The British Library reported long queues daily, some four to five deep. The crowds caused congestion in the confined spaces of the hall but did much to enhance the British image at the fair and – it is hoped – helped to boost business on the other British stands.

The joint venture itself was not in the traditional pavilion style and the British dealers were located amongst their German colleagues. This, it was felt, would help business and not frighten away potential customers.

Apart from the dealers, Britain was also well represented by the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, the British Post Office and the Crown Agents, in the so-called 'Hall of Nations'. All reported excellent sales and inquiries.

Success in 1978

Taking into consideration that the first exhibition in 1976 had attracted some 100 dealers and 60 000 visitors, it is true to say that 1978 was a success.

Most British dealers were at Essen for the very first time and reported good or satisfactory business which, in most cases, is expected to lead to substantial follow-up orders.

Throughout the exhibition period there was a constant flow of visitors which became a flood on the first day (a public holiday) and also on the weekend which followed.

Altogether the dealers along with the 40 general post offices and two post office agencies represented some 66 countries. For the very first time China was also represented and the inquiries received were so numerous that the Peking post office said it would attend Essen in 1980.

The German Federal Post Office sold 240 000 special postcards and franked some two million items.

Some of the foreign postal authorities spoke of turnovers which far exceeded those achieved in 1976. On 3 November, there was a 'British day' which was highlighted by two pipers from the Irish Rangers. The British consul at Düsseldorf, Mr R. Brash, visited the joint-venture firms and gave a special luncheon for prominent British and German members of the philatelic trade.

There was a concurrent congress which also drew large crowds throughout the exhibition period. Essen, to use a phrase coined by the press, has become 'The City for Philatelists'. The figures speak for themselves coupled with the fact that the majority of British dealers intend to come again.

The next fair will be from 5 to 9 November 1980 and will overlap with the world stamp congress from 3 to 5 November 1980.

Duke of Kent at BIE in Mexico

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, speaking at the opening of the British industrial exhibition in Mexico. The event held from 8 to 17 November, was opened by the President of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo and attracted a total of 210 UK firms. A full report will appear in next week's *Trade and Industry*.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Eighth Floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Power on at Enex

From John Wilde, British embassy, Singapore

Britain was once again the foremost overseas exhibitor at the second international electrical and electronic engineering exhibition (Enex-Asia) held in Singapore from 6 to 10 November. With 46 companies on the official stand jointly sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (Beama), the British group was the largest of the seven national stands. The importance of the contribution of the British electrical industry to the growing industrial development of south-east Asia was thus clearly emphasised.

Beama also arranged for eight technical papers to be presented at the seminar which ran concurrently with the exhibition. Beama president, Michael Parkinson, gave the keynote address to introduce the British papers.

Visitors came from many other Asian countries, as well as from Australia and New Zealand, and some even from Europe.

Most of the British exhibitors on the official stand, which occupied a prime site, did brisk business, Electric Construction, a Hawker Siddeley company, took a firm order for 70 brushless ac generators worth £50,000, in the first hour of the exhibition. Total orders received amounted to over £300,000.

For manufacturers of capital equipment and for newcomers to the region, the exhibition was a valuable opportunity to meet potential customers from throughout south-east Asia: an opportunity the British exhibitors readily seized.

ECGD cover for overseas fairs

As a supplement to the ordinary insurance policy exporters have with Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), cover is available for goods exhibited at fairs overseas against the rather special risks involved.

The standard cover includes sales at overseas fairs
Sales made at overseas fairs are covered under the standard ECGD policy against eventualities of loss, such as the insolvency of the buyer or his default, or exchange difficulties preventing transfer of payment from the buyer's country.

Special cover
Under a special policy supplementary to an exporter's main policy, ECGD can cover also the risks of loss arising while the goods are being exhibited or are on their way to be exhibited.
The risks covered are loss caused by destruction or damage resulting from war (including 'civil war, hostilities, rebellion and insurrection') occurring in the country where the goods are being exhibited or in a country through which the goods are travelling on their way to be exhibited,
or war between any of the countries involved,
or the requisition or confiscation of the goods in these countries,
or any measure or decision in the country where the goods are exhibited which prevents their re-export to the UK.
For more information about this special cover, get in touch with the nearest regional office of ECGD.

ECGD's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2. There are regional offices in:

Central London 01-437 2292 **North London** 01-808 4570 **South London** 01-686 9921 **Belfast** Belfast 31743 **Birmingham** 021-233 1771 **Bristol** Bristol 299971 **Cambridge** Cambridge 68801 **Glasgow** 041-332 8707 **Leeds** Leeds 450631 **Manchester** 061-228 3621.

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Organisers: Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre Limited, UK Exhibitions Division, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2DB. Tel: 021-643 1914 Telex: 336701

Industrial and Trade Fairs Holdings Limited, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2BG. Tel: 021-705 6707 Telex: 337073

5-8 Dec. 1978

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TRADE & INDUSTRY COMPLIMENTARY TICKET

REGISTER ON ARRIVAL

CRE: Commercial Relations and Exports Division

The Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions are responsible for the protection of United Kingdom commercial interests in the negotiation and administration of commercial treaties and trade agreements within the framework of the EEC's common commercial policy. There are five divisions. CRE1 is concerned with multilateral trade questions. The other four divisions concentrate mainly on bilateral arrangements.

The Export Services and Promotions Division, under the direction of the British Overseas Trade Board, is responsible for providing advice, information and assistance to British businessmen engaged in overseas trading. It works closely with the CRE Territorial Divisions, with Export Sections of the Regional Offices and with Commercial Departments of overseas posts. All inquiries, Tel. 01-248 5757.

Where necessary BOTB export service officers refer firms to the territorial division (CRE2,3,4,5,) who provide help and advice when a firm's overseas business is being affected or is likely to be affected by another country's commercial law or regulations or by trade restrictions. Countries/regional groupings covered by each branch together with telephone inquiry points are set out below.

All extensions can be dialled direct. Callers should dial (except where stated) **01-215** followed by the extension given.

Extension	
	Division 2 branch 1
3364	North America, Bermuda, US Pacific Islands, St Pierre, Miquelon, Langlade Islands.
	Division 3 branch 1
5342	Spain, Malta, Andorra, Gibraltar, Canary Islands, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia.
5298	Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland.
5336	Italy, San Marino, West Germany, France, Monaco, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
	Division 3 branch 2
5283	Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, Antarctic.
5567	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Caribbean.
5330	Australasia, Pacific Islands.
	Division 4 branch 1
3422	Hungary.
5735	Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Romania.
5264	USSR, Mongolia.
5256	Poland, Bulgaria, Albania.
	Division 4 branch 2
5279	India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldive Islands, Bangladesh.
5747	Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei.
5273	Republic of Korea (South), Hong Kong, Macao.
4322	Burma, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Laos, North Korea, Vietnam, China.
5243	Taiwan.
01-248 5757 ext 7162 or 613	Japan.
	Division 5 branch 1
3419	Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen Arab Republic, Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen.
5218	Iran, Iraq.
	Division 5 branch 2
5220	Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Afghanistan.
5225	Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco.
	Division 5 branch 3
5276	South Africa, South-west Africa/Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Rhodesia.
3064	Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia.
3331	Ascension, British Indian Ocean Territories, Ethiopia, Jibuti, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, St Helena, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Tristan da Cunha, Uganda, Zambia.
3435	Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Cape Verde Islands, Chad, Comoro Island, Congo (Brazzaville), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mayotte, Mozambique, Niger, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire.

Overseas trade export services

Through rates for Carryfast's Euro-shuttle

Carryfast International is now offering through rates per kg for its daily Euro-shuttle services to Holland. The services operate out of Manchester at 12.00 and Heathrow at 14.00 and may be fed the previous night from all other depots in the Carryfast International network.

Two tariffs are available, one through to Scheveningen for onward distribution throughout Holland, and the other charge right through to Schipol Airport providing an airfreight feeder service.

At rates down to 8p per kg, Carryfast says it is considerably cheaper than current express van services and down to almost half the lower cost of equivalent airfreight.

One of the many features of the new service is an all-inclusive minimum charge of £12 which is applicable to consignments up to a weight of 60 kg.

Further information: circle 232

BTDB to build second ro-ro terminal at Immingham

British Transport's dock board (BTDB) is to go ahead with the construction of a new ro-ro terminal at its port of Immingham on south Humberside. The new terminal – Immingham's second – will be operated as a common-user facility for freight traffic and is due to be completed by the end of 1979.

The new terminal will be sited at the end of the south-west arm of Immingham dock, part of which will be extended by 60 m to provide a berth for ro-ro vessels up to 180 m in length and 25 m beam. The berth will have a dredged depth of 11 m.

A surfaced terminal area for marshalling freight traffic is being provided to the rear of the berth, with a gatehouse, security fencing, lighting, and a customs examination building.

Further information: circle 233

Speed-up in ACL schedules

New schedules to provide faster transit times to and from New York, Portsmouth and Baltimore are being introduced by Atlantic Container Line.

The new schedule provides a seven-day transit from both Liverpool and Southampton to New York and a seven-day transit from New York to Liverpool. On the new service both Liverpool and Southampton will be the last loading ports on the westbound crossing and Liverpool will be the first discharge port on the eastbound leg.

The four vessels – *Atlantic Saga*, *Atlantic Song*, *Atlantic Star* and *Atlantic Span*, totalling 21 000 tons and with a capacity of 1024 teu's – will operate the Liverpool-US service, against three ships at present. These ships will make two calls a week at the Royal Seaforth terminal – one to load, the other to discharge. This service will also serve Gothenburg and Bremerhaven.

The Southampton service, linked with Rotterdam and Le Havre, will reach New York in seven days, Portsmouth in eight days and Baltimore in nine days – all two days faster than at present.

Further information: circle 234

New Medtainer LCL receiving depot

On 1 November Medtainer Line expanded its transport services with the opening of a new less than container load (LCL) receiving depot at Bristol.

The company says that the new depot is well placed to serve the many LCL shippers in south Wales and the south west and this new facility sited at Bristol Inland Clearing Depot will offer swift, reliable LCL services, through Felixstowe, to Cyprus, Jordan, Qatar, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Further information: circle 235

BFI confirms Abidjan service

Plans for a fortnightly ro-ro service between Europe, the UK and Abidjan in the Ivory Coast have been confirmed by BFI West Africa Lines.

BFI Line says that the regular Abidjan call will be offered within the present every-14-days service from Europe and the UK to Lagos (Apapa). BFI West Africa Lines vessels will use the newly-commissioned ro-ro berth at Abidjan.

At first, BFI will accept rolling cargo, 20 ft containers and 20 ft flats for Abidjan discharge and other cargo by special arrangement.

'We have been looking at the possibilities of serving an additional West African port for some while,' said BFI Line commercial manager Peter Ritchie. 'The timing coincides with the situation that our ferries have been arriving at Apapa notably in advance of the freight documentation for their cargoes. We are therefore in the unusual position of being able to introduce an additional port of call en route to Nigeria, but without any delay to the delivery of cargo to our Nigerian consignees.'

Two 17-knot, 114 trailer capacity ferries are employed on the line's west African services – the *Admiral Atlantic* and her new sistership *Admiral Nigeria*.

Further information: circle 236

Barclays International in Ivory Coast

Barclays Bank International's new Abidjan branch was officially opened on 30 October.

The branch, which began operations in July this year, provides a full range of domestic and international banking services and has been established to supplement the existing west African network of the Barclays group.

Further information: circle 237

Pandair increases consol addition services

Pandair – P&O international airfreight – has recently added three new destinations to its consolidation network.

Perth, Australia, will now be served direct from London twice a week – Wednesday and Saturday – using British Airways. These new consols give Pandair a 12 times a week frequency to Australia, Melbourne and Sydney each receiving five weekly movements.

Pandair has also started direct consolidations to Miami three times a week and a Kuwait service twice a week.

Further information: circle 238

Autotelex to New Delhi and Calcutta

Britain's telex links with New Delhi and Calcutta have gone automatic. These latest extensions of autotelex mean that UK telex users can now dial their own calls direct to all telex numbers in India. Automatic service to the Bombay and Madras areas started in November 1975.

About 7000 telex calls are made each month from the UK to New Delhi and Calcutta. Major commercial users are the iron, steel, transport and woollen industries.

An autotelex call to India costs 90p a minute, compared with the operator-connected charge of £2.70 for a three-minute minimum period. These prices are subject to VAT.

Further information: circle 239

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Anti-dumping duties. By resolution 1292/78, 19 September, Argentina has introduced anti-dumping import duties on sodium hydroxide and pvc. Investigations are to be conducted into possible dumping or subsidised imports of granular pvc products and of pure and impure sodium hydroxide. The Office of the Secretary of State for Industrial Development will be responsible for the investigation and for notification of findings.

The following normal export values are fixed for the purpose of determining anti-dumping or compensatory duties and the sureties to be paid to customs in respect thereof:

39.02.03.02 Granulated pvc, C and F US$710/tonne
28.17.01.01 Pure sodium hydroxide, C and F US$135/tonne
28.17.01.02 Impure sodium hydroxide, C and F US$135/tonne

These values will apply for 180 days from the date of this resolution.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Leather. The Australian government has received a request from local industry for temporary protection against imports of kid and calf leather, tariff items 41.01.900 and 41.04.900 respectively.

Requests for temporary protection are considered initially by the department concerned and at a later date they may be referred to the Temporary Assistance Authority (TAA) for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of reference. Any temporary protection that may be accorded goods of local manufacture on the recommendation of the TAA would be in the nature of a holding action pending government consideration of the long-term protection needs of local industry.

Interested parties who wish to make their views known on this application for temporary assistance should write immediately to the Department of Industry and Commerce, Canberra, PO Box 80, ACT 2600.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 1678/79.

Dumping inquiries. Following receipt of complaints from local industry that the following products are being dumped, the Australian government has announced that inquiries have been initiated in the countries concerned to determine whether export prices to Australia are less than the normal domestic value in the respective countries:

1 Domestic vacuum cleaners from Japan.
2 Dextrose monohydrate from the People's Republic of China, France, Japan and Malaysia.
3 Di-ethylene glycol from the United States and Taiwan.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 36493/2.

Austria

Cut paper. The Austrian Ministry of Trade and Industry has announced that the duty free quota for cut paper of heading 48.15 D originating in the UK has been exhausted. The duty for UK goods of that heading will now be levied at 13 per cent for the remainder of 1978.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Finland

Printed cotton fabrics and terry towels. The Finnish State Council has imposed a minimum import price (mip) of 23 Finnish marks per kg in imported printed cotton fabrics, and 20 Finnish marks per kg for terry towels.

If the import price is lower than the mip the importer is liable to pay the difference as a surcharge. The decision came into force on 6 November 1978 and is valid for one year.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 460.

Gibraltar

Milk and dairies regulations. The Gibraltar *Gazette*, 19 October, carried legal notice 99 of 1978, which contained amendments to the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1964.

The new regulations came into force from 18 October.

A copy of the amendments can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Greece

Import licensing list. A recent Greek government decision announced the following changes in respect of import list 'A':

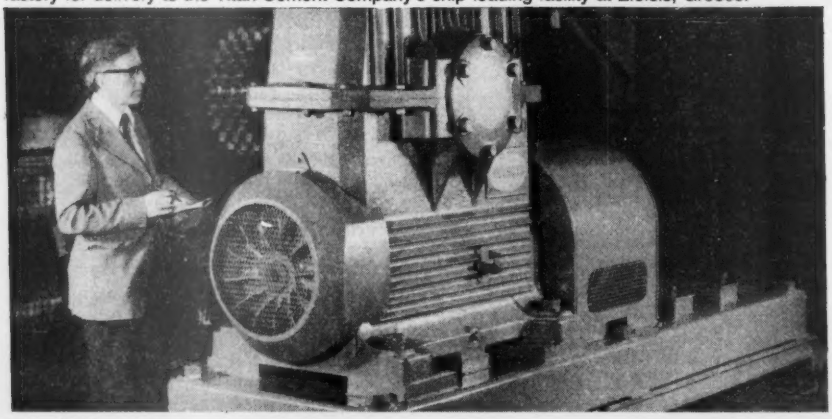
Tariff heading/Item	
39.02 C2bII	Polyvinyl chloride with the exception of the type known as 'emulsion' has now been placed on list 'A'
48.01 E2	Paper used in printing magazines has now been removed from list 'A'; there is now no restriction on its import
48.01 A	Newsprint has now been removed from list 'A'; there is now no restriction on its import

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Mexico

Tariff amendments. Acuerdos of the Secretaria de Comercio published in the *Diario Oficial*, 1 November, amended the official prices of

First of two 20-inch centre wormgear units receiving final inspection at the Renold group's Bradford factory for delivery to the Titan Cement Company's ship-loading facility at Elefsis, Greece.



Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

some goods in the following tariff headings:

17.02, 22.05, 22.06, 22.09, 25.23, 29.03, 29.25, 29.34, 31.02, 32.07, 32.10, 38.03, 38.08, 39.01, 39.07, 51.01, 56.01, 70.01, 73.15, 84.15, 84.28, 85.08, 85.09, 85.19, 85.20, 85.21, 85.23, 87.06, 90.10

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Netherlands

Chlorofluoromethanes. A decree dated 26 October 1978 ('Staatsblad' 547), published on 30 October 1978, contains regulations regarding chlorofluoromethanes in aerosols. The decree enters into force with effect from sixth calendar month from date of publication in 'Staatsblad'.

Copies of this decree (in Dutch) are available and an English translation should be available shortly from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Nigeria

Pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. The following information has been received from the British high commission in Lagos about new cosmetic products and drugs.

Samples, data sheets and the method of analysis of any new drug or cosmetic must be sent to the Nigerian Food and Drug Administration three months before the product arrives in Nigeria.

Exporters are reminded that the following documents are required for each consignment of drugs and cosmetics in addition to the usual export documents:

1 Certificate of free sale (original first time, photo copy for subsequent shipments)
2 Certificate of manufacture (original first time, photo copy for subsequent shipments) 1 and 2 may be combined
3 Certificate of analysis (original) for any new product or formula

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473.

Philippines

Air-conditioning units. On 8 September the Philippine government issued executive order 507 which came into effect on 14 July 1978, whereby the sales tax on imported air-conditioning units, components and parts is increased by 10 per cent and will now be 35 per cent.

All air-conditioning units which have not been certified by the Board of Investments as 'locally manufactured', shall be deemed to be imported; and will pay the new tax.

All imported air-conditioning components and parts (other than those which are of common and general use, and those which are specifically authorised to be imported under the local content or rationalisation programme of the Board of Investments for the air-conditioning industry), shall also be subject to the new tax.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 36/78, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 3 November, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 (A) Squash racquets and frames, classifiable under tariff subheading 97.06.30, from 10 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem* or 250c each, and
(B) Tennis racquets and frames, classifiable under tariff subheading 97.06.40.10, from 15 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem* or 250c each.
2 Flat stock, of alloy steel, precision machined, of a length not exceeding 2 m, a width not exceeding 250 mm, and a thickness not exceeding 30 mm, classifiable under tariff heading 73.15, from various rates of duty to 30 per cent *ad valorem*. This application supersedes the application published in list 32/78 784 in *Government Gazette*, 29 September.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in these applications are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning these applications it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list no 37/78, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 10 November, contains applications to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Elastic fabrics (excluding knitted or crocheted goods), consisting of textile materials combined with rubber threads, classifiable under tariff subheading 59.13.20, from 10 per cent *ad valorem* to 30 per cent *ad valorem* or 550c per kg less 70 per cent *ad valorem*.
2 Frames and other parts, fittings, trimmings and accessories for umbrellas and sunshades, classifiable under tariff subheading 66.03.10 from 20 per cent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem*.
3 (A) Citric acid, in containers of less then 5 kg net mass each classifiable under tariff subheading 29.16.30.10, from 730c per 100 kg with a maximum of 15 per cent *ad valorem* to 15 per cent *ad valorem*, and
(B) Citric acid, in containers of 5 kg or more net mass each, classifiable under tariff subheading 29.16.30.20, from 420c per 100 kg with a maximum of 15 per cent *ad valorem* to 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the applications are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the applications it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Spain

Import duty reductions. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 25 October, published royal decree 2487, 14 October, extending until 29 January 1979 the partial suspension of duties established by royal decree 1780/1978 issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism (see *Trade and Industry*, 18 August, page 395).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461/458/459/460.

CRE	Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)
OTAR	Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Thailand

Bunker oil. The Thai Ministry of Commerce has issued notice 90 BE 2521 (1978) which states that from 18 October bunker oil may be imported into Thailand in general without needing a permit.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Polyester film, raw hides, etc. The Thai Ministry of Finance has issued notice C5/1978 which came into effect on 26 July 1978 whereby the import duty on goods coming under CCCN 39.01 B and CCCN 41.01 has been amended to read as follows:

	Rate of duty					
	Normal rate			Reducing rate		
		Ad naturam			*Ad naturam*	
Heading no./ Classification	*Ad val.* (%)	Unit	Per unit Baht	*Ad val.* (%)	Unit	Per unit Baht
39.01						
b Polyester film imported by manufacturer for industrial production of audio-recording tape	60	Kg	6.00	30	Kg	3.00
41.01						
Raw hides and skins (fresh, salted, dried, pickled or limed), whether or not split, including sheepskins in the wool	30	—	—	3	—	—

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Glazing materials. The *Federal Register*, 30 October, published a correction by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to the safety standard for architectural glazing materials.

A copy of the text is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Speciality steel. Imports in pounds weight from the EEC for the product under quota as at 27 October 1978:

Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21) 3, 027, 768.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Unwrought, unalloyed copper. The President has announced on 20 October 1978, his decision to reject the International Trade Commission's recommendation for an annual 300,000 ton quota to be imposed on unwrought unalloyed copper, which he determined was not in the national economic interest.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Skin bleaching products. The *Federal Register*, 3 November, published a rule proposed by the Food and Drug Administration to establish conditions under which over-the-counter skin bleaching drug products would be generally recognised as safe. Written comments should be sent by 1 February 1979.

A copy of the text is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1975 prices		at 1975 prices			at 1975 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1977	1975	£ million	£ million			£ million 34,469	20,261	4,540	3,181	£ million		
1971	94.5	59 340	20 208	3 923	3 888	235	−277	218	12	1 090	261	829
1972	96.7	62 762	20 239	3 398	4 055	73	−279	173	29	135	−722	857
1973	103.4	65 497	21 609	3 504	4 674	2 983	1 336	432	624	−999	−2 383	1 384
1974	101.4	64 070	21 164	3 822	4 605	1 462	1 288	361	−180	−3 591	−5 235	1 644
1975	100.0	63 192	20 817	3 522	3 841	−1 925	−1 221	−249	−100	−1 855	−3 236	1 381
1976	102.9	63 320	20 489	3 345	3 926	261	316	131	13	−1 137	−3 589	2 452
1977	104.8	62 732	19 738	3 573	4 325	1 051	442	266	29	289	−1 709	1 998
1976 2nd qtr	102.8	15 785	5 137	828	972	−34	−46	−10	−67	−313	−949	636
3rd qtr	103.3	15 884	5 168	849	1 005	173	83	81	46	−416	−1 132	716
4th qtr	104.0	15 927	4 997	856	1 014	211	255	17	27	−329	−958	629
1977 1st qtr	103.7	15 619	4 794	851	1 030	475	267	82	117	−495	−973	478
2nd qtr	104.6	15 495	5 025	879	1 044	336	79	179	−4	−297	−762	465
3rd qtr	105.2	15 777	4 965	910	1 103	−7	−18	−80	−59	574	31	543
4th qtr	105.7	15 841	4 954	932	1 149	247	115	85	−33	507	−5	512
1978 1st qtr	105.9	16 361	5 015	920	1 169	324	71	81	62	−313	−608	295
2nd qtr	107.6	16 373	5 024	971	1 172	386	215	−41	128	183	−150	333
3rd qtr		16 686 pe							54	−56	−281	225
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.2	+2.7	+1.2	+2.7	+4.0							
on a year earlier	+2.5	+5.7	+2.2	+9.3	+12.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1975 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages	(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1975	1975	1971 16,296	thousands	Jan. 1974		1975	1975	Jan. 1970	thousands		thousands	1975 19,463	1975 22,699
1971	99.8	97.4	100.0	108.5	80.0	9.4	23.2	47.6	118.7	775.8	3.4	130.9	85.4	85.7
1972	102.0	100.0	105.3	138.6	85.7	7.1	24.2	50.1	134.0	854.9	3.7	147.3	85.2	95.3
1973	109.5	108.4	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	55.8	66.6	152.1	611.0	2.6	307.0	97.8	108.7
1974	105.1	106.5	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	86.3	81.9	179.1	599.7'	2.6'	302.7'	104.3	109.7
1975	100.0	100.0	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	100.0	100.0	226.6	929.0	3.9	150.0'	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	101.4	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	127.0	117.3	261.9	1 269.8'	5.4'	120.4'	109.8	105.7
1977	105.8	102.9	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	145.6	140.6	288.5	1 378.1	5.8	155.6'	118.9	107.1
1977 1st qtr	105.6	103.9	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	144.8	133.0	280.0	1 329.5	5.6	..	115.8	109.4
2nd qtr	105.5	102.4	102.5	103	181.9	17.4	148.8	139.6	285.3	1 340.6	5.6	157.7	118.0	109.6
3rd qtr	106.3	103.3	104.3	112	184.7	16.5	146.5	143.8	288.3	1 414.6	5.9	151.9	124.4	106.6
4th qtr	105.9	102.1	104.4	110	187.4	13.1	142.2	145.8	300.4	1 427.8	6.0	160.1	117.6	102.7
1978 1st qtr	107.1	102.5	106.3	129	190.6	9.5	140.2	149.2	310.8	1 409.4	5.9	187.7	120.0	114.1
2nd qtr	111.1	105.0	108.0	130	195.8	7.7	146.3	151.8	329.0	1 372.7	5.7	210.3	122.5	110.4
3rd qtr	110.6	104.8	110.9	132	199.2	7.8	144.9	154.7		1 380.5 p	5.8	213.0	126.1	116.0
1977 Oct	105.6	101.8	102.7	116	186.5	14.1	143.7	145.3	295.8	1 431.5	6.0	156.0	119.0	101.4
Nov	105.6	101.7	103.1	108	187.4	13.0	142.0	145.7	300.5	1 429.6	6.0	159.4	115.1	98.5
Dec	106.4	102.8	106.9	104	188.4	12.1	141.0	146.3	304.8	1 422.3	6.0	165.0	118.8	108.1
1978 Jan	106.9	102.4	104.9	125	189.5	9.9	139.4	148.3	306.3	1 419.2	5.9	180.3	111.7	114.4
Feb	107.4	102.2	106.8	120	190.6	9.5	139.1	149.2	311.2	1 409.0	5.9	187.0	127.5	111.1
Mar	107.1	102.9	107.0	142	191.8	9.1	142.0	150.0	314.8	1 400.0	5.9	195.8	120.9	116.7
Apr	111.4	105.5	106.7	132	194.6	7.9	145.1	150.9	325.7	1 387.1	5.8	203.7	126.1	104.4
May	110.1	103.7	108.4	124	195.7	7.7	146.8	151.9	327.2	1 366.4	5.7	209.9	119.5	114.8
Jun	111.7	105.9	108.7	133	197.2	7.4	147.0	152.7	334.0	1 364.7	5.7	217.4	122.0	111.9
Jul	111.1	105.2	111.4	108	198.1	7.8	145.8	153.8	332.7	1 371.4	5.7	211.0	127.1	116.1
Aug	110.9	105.2	111.8	146	199.4	8.0	144.2	154.8	333.2	1 392.1	5.8	209.3	125.2	111.2
Sep	109.8 p	104.0 p	109.5	144	200.2	7.8	144.8 p	155.6 p	337.8 p	1 378.3	5.8	218.7	125.9	120.7
Oct			109½ p		201.1	7.8	145.7 p	156.4 p		1 359.6	5.7	228.4	128.2 p	111.8 p
Nov										1 338.9 p	5.6	231.3		
% change latest 3 months														
on prev. 3 months	−0.4	−0.2	+0.7	+2.1	+1.6		−1.1	+1.8	+1.7	−1.2		+6.4	+3	+½
on a year earlier	+4.0	+1.5	+6.4	+18.1	+7.9		−0.1	+7.7	+16.0	−5.1		+46.6	+3	+11

p Provisional pe 2nd Preliminary e Estimate ' Average of available months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for October

The current account for October is estimated to have been in surplus by £209 million, following the deficit of £140 million in September.

There was a surplus on trade in goods in October of £119 million, following the deficit of £215 million in September. About one-third of this improvement reflected favourable movements in the more erratic elements of trade and in oil. The effects of industrial disputes at Southampton docks in August and at Ford's had a favourable impact on the change in the visible balance between September and October, possibly accounting for a further one quarter of this change (see notes 1 and 2). Total exports in October were valued at £3,120 million and imports at £3,001 million. The balance on invisibles is projected to have been running at a monthly surplus of £90 million (see section on invisibles).

Latest three months

In the three months ended October, the current account was in surplus by £212 million, compared with a deficit of £173 million in the previous three months.

In the latest period, visible trade was in deficit by £28 million, compared with a deficit of £470 million in the previous three months. Trade in the more erratic items and oil contributed around one quarter of this improvement.

The surplus on invisibles in the latest three months period is projected at £240 million.

Current account on balance of payments basis

VISIBLE TRADE (tables 2, 4, 6 and 6a)

October

In October, there was a surplus on visible trade of £119 million, following the deficit of £215 million in September. Exports rose by £63 million. In contrast, imports fell by £271 million from the high September level, with imports of the more erratic items and oil, together down by £105 million. Among major commodities, imports of food and road vehicles were sharply lower, the latter from a high September level. The effects of the industrial disputes mentioned earlier probably accounted for around one-third of the reduction in total imports between September and October (see notes 1 and 2).

In terms of volume, exports rose by 2 per cent in October, while imports fell back by 7½ per cent from the high September level. The export and import unit value indices both showed marginal increases, leaving the terms of trade index virtually unchanged.

The three months ended October

In the three months ended October, there was a visible trade deficit of £28 million, following one of £470 million in the previous three months. The small surplus on trade in the more erratic items improved by £72 million and the deficit on trade in oil was reduced by

Table 1 Current account

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Visible trade			Invisibles		
	Current balance	Visible balance	Exports fob	Imports fob	Balance	Credits	Debits
1977 4th quarter	+507	−5	8 187	8 192	+512	4 141	3 629
1978 1st quarter	−313	−608	8 414	9 022	+295	4 230	3 935
2nd quarter	+183	−150	8 782	8 932	+333	4 295	3 962
3rd quarter	−56 [1]	−281	9 134	9 415	+225 [1]	n.a.	n.a.
1978 May	−124	−235	2 863	3 098	+111 [2]		
June	+10	−101	2 924	3 025	+111 [2]		
July	−59 [1]	−134	3 050	3 184	+75 [1]		
August	+143 [1]	+68	3 027	2 959	+75 [1]	Monthly figures of	
September	−140 [1]	−215	3 057	3 272	+75 [1]	credits and debits	
October	+209 [1]	+119	3 120	3 001	+90 [1]	are not available	
May-July	−173	−470	8 837	9 307	+297		
Aug-Oct	+212 [1]	−28	9 204	9 232	+240 [1]		

[1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles not available.

Table 2 Current balance, visible trade and invisible trade

Balance of payments basis

£ million seasonally adjusted

		Visible trade			
	Current balance	Visible balance	Exports fob	Imports fob	Invisible balance
1976	−1 137	−3 589	25 424	29 013	+2 452
1977	+289	−1 709	32 182	33 891	+1 998
1976 2nd quarter	−313	−949	6 160	7 109	+636
3rd quarter	−416	−1 132	6 513	7 645	+716
4th quarter	−329	−958	7 097	8 055	+629
1977 1st quarter	−495	−973	7 512	8 485	+478
2nd quarter	−297	−762	7 927	8 689	+465
3rd quarter	+574	+31	8 556	8 525	+543
4th quarter	+507	−5	8 187	8 192	+512
1978 1st quarter r	−313	−608	8 414	9 022	+295
2nd quarter r	+183	−150	8 782	8 932	+333
3rd quarter r	−56 [1]	−281	9 134	9 415	+225 [1]
1978 May r	−124	−235	2 863	3 098	+111 [2]
June r	+10	−101	2 924	3 025	+111 [2]
July r	−59 [1]	−134	3 050	3 184	+75 [1]
August r	+143 [1]	+68	3 027	2 959	+75 [1]
September r	−140 [1]	−215	3 057	3 272	+75 [1]
October p	+209 [1]	+119	3 120	3 001	+90 [1]
May-July	−173	−470	8 837	9 307	+297
Aug-Oct	+212 [1]	−28	9 204	9 232	+240 [1]
Percentage change 3rd quarter on previous quarter			+4	−1	

p Provisional estimates r Revised estimates [1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Table 3 Invisibles

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Invisibles					
	Total			of which private sector and public corporations [1]		
	Balance	Credits	Debits	Balance	Credits	Debits
1976	+2 452	14 354	11 902	+4 702	13 179	8 477
1977	+1 998	16 135	14 137	+4 712	14 708	9 996
1976 4th quarter	+629	3 912	3 283	+1 288	3 624	2 336
1977 1st quarter	+478	3 922	3 444	+1 168	3 625	2 457
2nd quarter	+465	3 957	3 492	+1 143	3 647	2 504
3rd quarter	+543	4 115	3 572	+1 229	3 749	2 520
4th quarter	+512	4 141	3 629	+1 172	3 687	2 515
1978 1st quarter	+295	4 230	3 935	+1 163	3 761	2 598
2nd quarter	+333	4 295	3 962	+1 094	3 777	2 683
July	+75 [2]					
August	+75 [2]					
September	+75 [2]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
October	+90 [2]					

n.a. Not available. [1] ie excluding general government transactions and all transfers. [2] See note 1 of table 2.

£54 million. The remainder of the improvement in the visible balance was spread widely over the major commodity groups.

Total exports were valued at £9,204 million in the three months ended October, 4 per cent (£367 million) higher than in the previous three months, despite a fall of £120 million in the more erratic items. By volume, total exports rose by 3 per cent (4 per cent excluding the more erratic items).

The value of imports in the latest three months was £9,232 million, 1 per cent (£75 million) below the level of the previous period. Imports of the more erratic items fell by £192 million, outweighing an increase in imports of finished manufactures (less erratics). In volume terms, total imports rose marginally (but by 2½ per cent excluding the more erratic items).

With the export unit value index rising by 2 per cent and the import unit value index by 1 per cent, the terms of trade index rose by 1 per cent.

INVISIBLES (table 3)

The latest estimates of invisibles – services, interest, profits and dividends and transfers – relate to the second quarter of 1978 when credits were £4,295 million and debits £3,962 million, giving a surplus of £333 million for the quarter (a monthly average of £111 million). Invisibles of the private sector and public corporations, excluding transfers, were in surplus by £1,094 million in the second quarter (a monthly average of £365 million). The projected surplus on invisibles for October of £90 million is higher than the projection for the months of the third quarter, as the net contribution to the EEC is expected to be lower in the fourth quarter. For all other invisibles the level projected in the third quarter on the basis of information for the second quarter had been retained for October.

Area and commodity analysis of visible trade on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

EXPORTS

By area (table 7)

In the three months ended October, the value of exports to the developed countries rose by 3 per cent in comparison with the previous three months. Deliveries to the EEC increased by 5½ per cent, but the value of goods despatched to the rest of western Europe fell by 4½ per cent. Exports to north America rose by 5 per cent. Shipments to the other developed countries

Table 4 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers

Balance of payments basis — Indices 1975 = 100

	Unit value (Not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (Seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade [1]	Exports	Imports
1976	120.7	121.6	99.3	109.8	105.7
1977	142.4	141.4	100.7	118.9	107.1
1976 2nd quarter	116.9	118.4	98.8	109.7	106.3
3rd quarter	123.9	124.4	99.6	110.1	109.0
4th quarter	131.3	133.7	98.2	113.4	107.1
1977 1st quarter	135.7	137.2	98.9	115.8	109.4
2nd quarter	141.4	141.0	100.3	118.0	109.6
3rd quarter	145.2	143.7	101.0	124.4	106.6
4th quarter	147.3	143.8	102.4	117.6	102.7
1978 1st quarter r	149.5	142.6	104.8	120.0	114.1
2nd quarter r	153.7	147.0	104.6	122.5	110.4
3rd quarter r	157.1	149.3	105.2	126.1	116.0
1978 May r	154.7	146.9	105.3	119.5	114.8
June r	154.9	148.6	104.2	122.0	111.9
July r	155.7	149.0	104.5	127.1	116.1
August r	157.3	148.8	105.7	125.2	111.2
September r	158.3	150.1	105.5	125.9	120.7
October p	158.8	150.9	105.2	128.2	111.8
May-July	155.1	148.2	104.7	122.9	114.3
Aug-Oct	158.1	149.9	105.5	126.4	114.6
Percentage change	+2	+1	+1	+3	+½

[1] Export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

Table 5 Balance of trade in oil and in other goods

Balance of payments basis — £ million seasonally adjusted

	Visible balance		
	Total trade	Trade in oil [1]	Trade in other goods
1976	−3 589	−3 973	+384
1977	−1 709	−2 804	+1 095
1976 2nd quarter	−949	−968	+19
3rd quarter	−1 132	−1 058	−74
4th quarter	−958	−1 000	+42
1977 1st quarter	−973	−800	−173
2nd quarter	−762	−745	−17
3rd quarter	+31	−602	+633
4th quarter	−5	−657	+652
1978 1st quarter r	−608	−642	+34
2nd quarter r	−150	−398	+248
3rd quarter r	−281	−511	+230
1978 May r	−235	−147	−88
June r	−101	−107	+6
July r	−134	−221	+87
August r	+68	−95	+163
September r	−215	−195	−20
October p	+119	−131	+250
May-July	−470	−475	+5
Aug-Oct	−28	−421	+393

[1] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 6 Trade in oil [2]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of trade in oil	Exports of oil			Imports of oil				
		Total	Crude oil [1] [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]	Rest of division 33	Total	Crude oil [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]			Rest of division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	Million tonnes	Average value per tonne £ fob	£ million fob
1976	−3 973	1 172	178	994	5 145	4 089	87.0	47.0	1 056
1977	−2 804	1 965	904	1 061	4 769	3 681	68.6	53.7	1 088
1976 2nd quarter	−968	266	24	242	1 234	962	21.1	45.8	272
3rd quarter	−1 058	307	45	262	1 365	1 080	22.2	48.8	285
4th quarter	−1 000	378	91	287	1 378	1 122	21.9	51.1	256
1977 1st quarter	−800	454	163	291	1 254	1 006	19.1	53.0	248
2nd quarter	−745	516	239	277	1 261	988	18.2	54.3	273
3rd quarter	−602	560	300	260	1 162	880	16.2	54.3	282
4th quarter	−657	435	202	233	1 092	807	15.1	53.2	285
1978 1st quarter r	−642	472	272	200	1 114	866	17.3	50.0	248
2nd quarter r	−398	557	312	245	955	734	14.1	52.0	221
3rd quarter r	−511	613	338	275	1 124	888	17.8	50.0	236
1978 May r	−147	206	122	84	353	276	5.3	51.6	77
June r	−107	177	112	65	284	211	4.0	53.1	73
July r	−221	180	100	80	401	315	6.2	50.7	86
August r	−95	244	148	96	339	268	5.4	50.1	71
September r	−195	189	90	99	384	305	6.2	49.2	79
October p	−131	205	113	92	336	250	5.2	48.1	86
May-Jul	−475	563	334	229	1 038	802	15.5	51.6	236
Aug-Oct	−421	638	351	287	1 059	823	16.7	49.2	236
Percentage change		+13	+5	+25	+2	+2½	+7½	−5	–

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 6a Value and volume of exports and imports excluding the more erratic items[1]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Exports fob		Imports fob	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	23 382	108.9	27 056	106.9
1977	29 520	118.1	31 187	107.5
1976 2nd quarter	5 613	108.0	6 483	105.2
3rd quarter	6 003	109.5	7 094	109.7
4th quarter	6 521	112.2	7 616	109.9
1977 1st quarter	6 934	115.2	7 940	111.4
2nd quarter	7 281	117.3	7 748	106.6
3rd quarter	7 796	122.8	7 931	108.5
4th quarter	7 509	117.0	7 568	103.7
1978 1st quarter r	7 815	121.1	8 391	116.3
2nd quarter r	7 966	122.7	8 272	112.1
3rd quarter r	8 545	129.1	8 802	119.7
1978 May r	2 630	121.4	2 884	117.4
June r	2 673	122.6	2 791	113.1
July r	2 829	129.2	2 932	118.0
August r	2 877	129.8	2 804	115.6
September r	2 839	128.2	3 066	125.4
October p	2 904	130.4	2 853	116.8
May-July	8 132	124.4	8 607	116.2
Aug-Oct	8 620	129.5	8 723	119.3
Percentage change	+6	+4	+1½	+2½

[1] These are defined as ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones.

increased by 6 per cent. Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 3½ per cent; shipments to the oil exporting countries fell by 2 per cent, but exports to the other developing countries rose by 8½ per cent. The value of shipments to the centrally planned economies increased by 1 per cent.

By commodity (tables 8, 9 and 10)

The value of exports of manufactured goods in the three months ended October was 4½ per cent higher than in the previous three months, with volume increasing by 2 per cent. Within this broad group of commodities, the value of deliveries of machinery rose by 5 per cent with volume up by 2 per cent, while shipments of road vehicles increased by 4 per cent in value and 1 per cent in volume. Chemical exports rose by 3 per cent in value and by 2½ per cent in volume in the latest three months, while shipments of metals were up by 3½ per cent in value although volume fell marginally. The value of textile exports was 4 per cent higher, with a volume rise of 3 per cent. The value of exports of other manufactured goods was up by 4½ per cent with volume increasing by 3 per cent; excluding trade in precious stones, value rose by 4½ per cent and volume by 1½ per cent.

Table 7 Exports by area

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	26 024	18 612	9 249	4 298	3 116	1 949	6 630	3 221	3 409	726
1977	33 308	23 689	12 128	5 594	3 863	2 104	8 613	4 368	4 245	910
1977 2nd quarter	8 272	5 972	3 044	1 446	957	525	2 103	1 074	1 029	245
3rd quarter	8 829	6 290	3 161	1 506	1 083	541	2 213	1 132	1 081	258
4th quarter	8 491	5 888	3 110	1 342	922	513	2 372	1 135	1 236	200
1978 1st quarter r	8 854	6 145	3 248	1 352	997	548	2 382	1 185	1 197	293
2nd quarter r	9 097	6 506	3 484	1 390	1 048	583	2 400	1 232	1 167	256
3rd quarter r	9 560	6 762	3 630	1 449	1 092	592	2 493	1 190	1 303	243
1978 August r	3 191	2 257	1 218	497	339	203	820	391	429	69
September r	3 189	2 255	1 242	419	392	201	838	405	433	90
October p	3 278	2 291	1 236	485	367	204	869	394	475	88
May-July	9 224	6 594	3 508	1 465	1 047	573	2 446	1 213	1 233	245
Aug-Oct	9 658	6 803	3 696	1 401	1 098	608	2 527	1 189	1 337	247
Percentage change	+4½	+3	+5½	−4½	+5	+6	+3½	−2	+8½	+1

Table 8 Exports by commodity

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures[2]									
						Machinery and transport equipment[2]								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equipment[1,2]	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
SITC (REV 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	79	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8	9
1976	26 024	1 692	735	1 265	21 616	10 383	6 994	2 377	1 012	3 007	2 362	972	4 892	715
1977	33 308	2 217	895	2 078	27 172	12 680	8 337	2 871	1 473	3 821	2 879	1 193	6 599	945
1977 2nd quarter	8 272	539	218	547	6 754	3 105	2 063	723	319	946	751	295	1 693	243
3rd quarter	8 829	591	232	588	7 189	3 394	2 128	736	530	1 029	742	309	1 634	244
4th quarter	8 491	593	218	462	6 966	3 318	2 221	744	354	967	688	292	1 730	244
1978 1st quarter r	8 854	699	208	504	7 178	3 320	2 195	759	366	980	738	307	1 840	232
2nd quarter r	9 097	729	243	593	7 344	3 457	2 271	805	381	1 037	759	296	1 849	244
3rd quarter r	9 560	744	256	647	7 668	3 462	2 352	766	345	1 076	787	311	1 949	253
1978 August r	3 191	241	80	255	2 545	1 138	784	260	95	354	252	102	668	69
September r	3 189	251	87	201	2 582	1 185	804	254	127	373	260	102	614	107
October p	3 278	252	89	217	2 596	1 198	803	288	107	358	280	109	654	104
May-July	9 224	741	253	598	7 389	3 442	2 277	770	395	1 052	766	301	1 855	240
Aug-Oct	9 658	744	256	673	7 723	3 521	2 391	801	329	1 085	793	313	1 935	280
Percentage change	+4½	+½	+1	+13	+4½	+2½	+5	+4	−17	+3	+3½	+4	+4½	+17

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

Exports of non-manufactured goods in total rose 5 per cent in the three months to October. Within this category, shipments of food, beverages and tobacco rose marginally in value and fell 1½ per cent in volume. The value of deliveries of basic materials increased by 1 per cent, but fell 1 per cent by volume. Fuel exports were 13 per cent higher, mainly reflecting increased exports of oil products.

Table 9 Exports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures[1]							
						Machinery and transport equipment[1,2]						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manufactures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8
Weights	1 000	71	26	41	828	419	287	92	107	92	36	174
1976	108.7	103	117	120	109	101	99	104	124	109	117	117
1977	119.0	111	125	164	118	105	102	105	141	116	120	135
1977 2nd quarter	118.7	109	118	170	118	105	102	106	141	121	120	136
3rd quarter	123.9	114	130	183	123	110	103	105	150	120	122	131
4th quarter	118.1	115	121	149	117	105	104	105	142	109	112	138
1978 1st quarter r	121.9	137	120	176	118	103	100	107	144	115	119	142
2nd quarter r	122.7	134	141	205	119	108	102	120	154	118	113	131
3rd quarter r	127.1	132	145	228	122	105	102	115	158	117	117	139
1978 August r	127.3	129	138	267	122	103	102	113	156	112	115	144
September r	126.1	132	142	218	122	108	104	116	164	114	115	128
October p	129.1	134	148	236	122	108	104	125	158	124	122	135
May-July	123.8	134	145	204	119	107	101	117	155	117	114	132
Aug-Oct	127.5	132	143	240	122	106	103	118	159	117	117	136
Percentage change	+3	−1½	−1	+18	+2	−½	+2	+1	+2½	−½	+3	+3

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 10 Exports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975= 100 not seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment[1]						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manufactures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8
1976	120.8	115	124	126	121	123	123	123	114	119	115	124
1977	142.5	137	144	150	143	149	148	152	128	136	139	142
1977 2nd quarter	141.7	138	151	150	142	146	145	150	128	137	137	143
3rd quarter	145.3	142	145	154	145	152	151	156	129	136	142	145
4th quarter	147.2	139	138	150	148	158	156	161	130	137	145	143
1978 1st quarter r	149.5	143	135	141	151	161	159	161	129	142	145	148
2nd quarter r	153.7	148	141	140	155	162	162	159	131	145	147	162
3rd quarter r	157.3	152	142	138	159	168	167	168	132	150	149	162
1978 August r	157.3	153	142	139	159	168	167	170	133	150	148	160
September r	158.9	151	143	137	161	170	169	170	131	153	150	166
October p	159.3	151	141	135	162	171	168	175	132	152	149	167
May-July	155.1	151	142	141	157	163	163	161	132	147	148	163
Aug-Oct	158.5	152	142	137	161	170	168	172	132	152	149	164
Percentage change	+2	+½	–	−3	+2½	+4	+3	+7	–	+3½	+1	+1

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 11 Imports by area

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	31 569	22 569	11 510	4 645	4 280	2 134	7 860	4 296	3 564	1 109
1977	36 996	27 420	14 161	5 582	4 997	2 680	8 167	3 804	4 362	1 357
1977 2nd quarter	9 601	7 212	3 551	1 647	1 309	705	2 117	1 030	1 087	342
3rd quarter	9 239	6 767	3 601	1 218	1 328	620	2 065	924	1 141	371
4th quarter	8 987	6 833	3 629	1 416	1 101	687	1 828	819	1 009	342
1978 1st quarter	9 870	7 463	3 874	1 553	1 307	728	1 975	925	1 050	310
2nd quarter r	10 221	8 207	4 123	2 029	1 387	668	1 814	779	1 035	313
3rd quarter r	10 471	7 960	4 161	1 704	1 337	759	2 167	960	1 206	322
1978 August r	3 395	2 641	1 333	589	489	230	685	315	369	94
September r	3 609	2 740	1 467	570	450	253	766	308	459	111
October p	3 381	2 677	1 458	526	445	248	627	252	375	96
May-July	10 653	8 377	4 135	2 129	1 369	745	1 940	854	1 085	346
Aug-Oct	10 385	8 059	4 258	1 686	1 384	731	2 078	875	1 203	300
Percentage change	−2½	−4	+3	−21	+1	−2	+7	+2½	+11	−13

Table 12 Imports by commodity

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [2]						
									Machinery and transport equipment [2]					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equipment [1,2]	Other	Miscellaneous
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	79	8	9
1976	31 569	4 983	5 669	11 245	3 248	1 924	6 073	9 225	6 755	4 305	1 432	1 019	2 470	447
1977	36 996	5 945	5 252	13 491	3 612	2 365	7 513	11 803	8 780	5 298	2 133	1 349	3 023	505
1977 2nd quarter	9 601	1 561	1 377	3 462	888	593	1 981	3 086	2 346	1 297	496	553	741	122
3rd quarter	9 239	1 547	1 278	3 324	897	599	1 828	2 964	2 204	1 369	555	280	760	141
4th quarter	8 987	1 336	1 223	3 346	847	569	1 931	3 014	2 236	1 347	598	291	778	123
1978 1st quarter	9 870	1 521	1 267	3 606	845	653	2 108	3 268	2 416	1 442	669	305	852	119
2nd quarter r	10 221	1 562	1 078	3 542	809	673	2 060	3 950	3 042	1 569	710	762	908	133
3rd quarter r	10 471	1 595	1 256	3 891	829	677	2 385	3 567	2 572	1 612	734	226	995	187
1978 August r	3 395	537	377	1 274	263	216	795	1 120	796	518	202	76	324	91
September r	3 609	540	426	1 308	280	228	800	1 285	937	569	298	70	348	51
October p	3 381	444	388	1 302	278	245	779	1 219	856	575	201	79	364	54
May-July	10 653	1 543	1 172	3 787	844	679	2 265	4 064	3 111	1 603	746	762	953	137
Aug-Oct	10 385	1 522	1 191	3 885	821	690	2 374	3 624	2 588	1 663	701	225	1 035	196
Percentage change	−2½	−1½	+1½	+2½	−2½	+1½	+5	−11	−17	+4	−6	−71	+8½	+43

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

Table 13 Imports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [1]				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1,2]			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
Weights	1 000	177	177	341	92	55	194	283	207	137	37	76
1976	106.4	102	100	112	119	122	106	109	108	104	127	110
1977	108.9	102	83	116	113	133	113	123	125	117	160	118
1977 2nd quarter	112.2	107	85	117	109	134	116	130	134	116	150	118
3rd quarter	108.0	105	80	114	111	135	110	123	125	120	168	116
4th quarter	105.6	92	78	117	109	128	117	123	125	116	177	118
1978 1st quarter	116.4	101	85	128	116	153	126	132	132	126	174	133
2nd quarter r	116.9	102	71	124	111	157	120	152	159	135	177	135
3rd quarter r	119.8	105	84	133	112	161	134	139	136	141	171	146
1978 August r	117.9	109	75	131	109	156	134	132	127	135	143	144
September r	123.5	109	86	132	114	164	131	149	149	151	205	151
October p	116.1	89	78	132	115	178	127	144	139	155	134	155
May-July	121.3	100	77	131	113	159	131	157	163	140	182	141
August-October	119.2	102	80	132	113	166	130	142	138	147	161	150
Percentage change	−1½	+2½	+4	+½	−½	+4½	+½	−10	−15	+5	−12	+6½

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 14 Imports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 not seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1]			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other Semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
1976	122.4	113	131	121	123	120	121	125	127	127	128	121
1977	141.5	132	148	141	145	140	140	144	146	144	155	139
1977 2nd quarter	141.7	131	149	144	148	140	143	142	144	142	152	138
3rd quarter	143.6	135	149	143	148	143	141	146	148	146	155	143
4th quarter	142.6	137	146	139	139	143	138	148	151	147	161	142
1978 1st quarter	141.6	139	138	138	131	142	140	150	154	148	172	141
2nd quarter r	146.1	142	141	143	133	145	147	156	158	150	185	149
3rd quarter r	148.0	143	139	146	135	147	151	159	162	151	193	152
1978 August r	147.4	143	139	145	135	146	150	159	161	151	192	151
September r	149.2	141	138	149	136	145	157	161	163	152	198	155
October p	150.0	143	137	150	135	148	158	162	164	152	204	156
May-July	147.0	143	142	144	135	147	148	157	159	149	189	150
August-October	148.9	142	138	148	135	146	155	161	163	152	198	154
Percentage change	+1½	−½	−2½	+3	+½	−	+4½	+2½	+2½	+2	+4½	+3

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 15 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Valuation and coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1976	26 024	26 024	−600	25 424	31 569	31 569	−1 926	−630	29 013
1977	33 308	33 308	−1 126	32 182	36 996	36 996	−2 107	− 998	33 891
1976 2nd quarter	6 459	6 303	−143	6 160	7 927	7 753	−478	−166	7 109
3rd quarter	6 309	6 617	−104	6 513	7 873	8 208	−513	−50	7 645
4th quarter	7 408	7 320	−223	7 097	8 923	8 845	−518	−272	8 055
1977 1st quarter	7 809	7 716	−204	7 512	9 217	9 169	−563	−121	8 485
2nd quarter	8 463	8 272	−345	7 927	9 766	9 601	−576	−336	8 689
3rd quarter	8 486	8 829	−273	8 556	8 964	9 239	−511	−203	8 525
4th quarter	8 550	8 491	−304	8 187	9 049	8 987	−457	−338	8 192
1978 1st quarter r	8 756	8 854	−440	8 414	9 791	9 870	−531	−317	9 022
2nd quarter r	9 604	9 097	−315	8 782	10 616	10 221	−543	−746	8 932
3rd quarter r	9 025	9 560	−426	9 134	9 995	10 471	−577	−479	9 415
1978 May r	3 196	3 016	−153	2 863	3 735	3 650	−191	−361	3 098
June r	3 299	3 028	−104	2 924	3 783	3 537	−186	−326	3 025
July r	3 066	3 180	−130	3 050	3 381	3 467	−193	−90	3 184
August r	2 979	3 191	−164	3 027	3 229	3 395	−186	−250	2 959
September r	2 980	3 189	−132	3 057	3 385	3 609	−198	−139	3 272
October p	3 410	3 278	−158	3 120	3 575	3 381	−184	−196	3 001
May-July	9 561	9 224	−387	8 837	10 899	10 653	−569	−777	9 307
August-October	9 369	9 658	−454	9 204	10 189	10 385	−568	−585	9 232
Percentage change	−2	+4½		+4	−6½	−2½			−1

Table 16 Exports: value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Manufactures: Total [1]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]		Other manufactures [3]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	23 705	108.1	19 297	108	9 407	101	3 549	115
1977	29 852	116.8	23 717	115	11 245	102	4 578	128
1977 2nd quarter	7 356	116.0	5 837	114	2 792	103	1 090	123
3rd quarter	7 889	121.5	6 249	120	2 885	104	1 203	132
4th quarter	7 600	115.9	6 075	115	2 974	104	1 184	129
1978 1st quarter r	7 935	120.2	6 259	116	2 966	102	1 275	136
2nd quarter r	8 076	121.6	6 322	117	3 090	107	1 195	125
3rd quarter r	8 652	127.8	6 759	123	3 142	106	1 361	139
1978 August r	2 911	128.5	2 265	123	1 050	105	476	145
September r	2 876	126.9	2 269	123	1 068	108	418	127
October p	2 942	129.2	2 260	122	1 101	110	414	125
May-July	8 244	123.3	6 408	118	3 064	105	1 252	130
August-October	8 730	128.2	6 794	122	3 220	108	1 308	132
Percentage change	+6	+4	+6	+3½	+5	+2	+4½	+1½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

Table 17 Imports: value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Industrial materials: Total [3]		Other semi-manufactures [3]		Finished manufactures: Total [2]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	29 399	106.7	10 081	114	4 909	108	8 219	110	5 748	109
1977	33 818	107.6	11 644	114	5 666	109	10 471	124	7 449	126
1977 2nd quarter	8 443	107.1	2 856	111	1 375	104	2 534	121	1 794	123
3rd quarter	8 593	108.6	2 951	116	1 455	112	2 691	126	1 931	130
4th quarter	8 158	103.8	2 803	112	1 387	108	2 728	126	1 951	130
1978 1st quarter	9 029	115.7	3 062	126	1 564	122	2 972	135	2 120	136
2nd quarter r	8 936	111.9	3 014	122	1 532	117	3 194	141	2 285	144
3rd quarter r	9 559	119.9	3 199	129	1 693	127	3 347	148	2 352	148
1978 August r	3 072	116.9	1 025	125	546	123	1 046	139	722	137
September r	3 315	124.9	1 081	131	573	129	1 218	160	870	164
October p	3 089	116.6	1 086	131	563	124	1 143	152	779	151
May-July	9 302	116.0	3 192	128	1 670	126	3 308	146	2 355	149
August-October	9 475	119.5	3 192	129	1 682	125	3 406	150	2 371	151
Percentage change	+2	+3	−	+½	+½	−1	+3	+2½	+½	+1½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

IMPORTS

The comparisons for some of the component series are affected by the inclusion in the May and June import figures, on an overseas trade statistics basis, of North Sea oil production installations valued at around £500 million (£240 million in May and £260 million in June). Only a small part of this value, however, is included in the figures on a balance of payments basis (see note 4).

By area (table 11)

In the three months ended October, the value of imports from the developed countries was 4 per cent lower than in the previous three months; excluding North Sea installations, imports rose by 2½ per cent. Deliveries from the EEC increased by 3 per cent. Imports from the rest of western Europe fell by 21 per cent (excluding North Sea installations, imports rose by 4 per cent). Imports from north America increased by 1 per cent. There was a decrease of 2 per cent in arrivals from the other developed countries. Imports from the developing countries were up by 7 per cent, with a rise of 2½ per cent in arrivals from the oil exporting countries and an increase of 11 per cent in deliveries from the other developing countries. There was a fall of 13 per cent in imports from the centrally planned economies.

By commodity (tables 12, 13, 14 and 17)

In the three months ended October, imports of food, beverages and tobacco fell 1½ per cent in value but rose by 2½ per cent in volume. Imports of fuels increased by 1½ per cent in value and 4 per cent in volume, with price falling by 2½ per cent. Arrivals of industrial materials in total rose by 2½ per cent in value, reflecting price increases, with volume up only marginally; excluding precious stones there was little change in either value or volume. Within this group, deliveries of basic materials were 2½ per cent lower in value, with volume slightly down. Imports of chemicals rose by 1½ and 4½ per cent in value and volume, respectively, with high arrivals in October. The value of imports of other semi-manufactures rose by 5 per cent, entirely reflecting a price increase, with volume little changed; excluding precious stones value rose marginally and volume fell by 1 per cent. Deliveries of finished manufactures excluding the more erratic items increased by 3 per cent in value and 2½ per cent in volume. Imports of machinery continue to increase, rising by 4 per cent in value and 5 per cent in volume between the three months periods. Deliveries of road vehicles were 6 per cent lower in value, with volume falling by 12 per cent and prices sharply higher in the latest period. Imports of other finished manufactures (mainly consumer goods) were 8½ per cent higher in value terms, largely reflecting a 6½ per cent volume increase.

Notes

1 The Ford dispute. Production and shipment – both export and import – of Ford goods have been affected in October by industrial action, which began at the end of September. In the overseas trade statistics, imports are recorded so that the statistics relate closely to goods shipped during the month. There was, therefore, a likely short-fall of all Ford's normal imports in October. For exports, however, the position is rather different since documents used in compiling figures for a given month relate, *on average*, to goods shipped some two weeks earlier, with the delay naturally varying about this average. It is likely, therefore, that the effect of the industrial action on the recorded October figures was considerably less on exports than on imports, leading to a favourable net effect on the visible trade balance, possibly of the order of £50 million, although the estimate is highly uncertain.

2 Industrial dispute at Southampton Docks. There was an industrial dispute at Southampton docks for eight days at the end of August, during which time the port was closed to non-oil trade. The effect of this dispute was to reduce imports in August by an estimated £40 million which was subsequently made good in September. Imports in October are expected to have returned to normal levels. The distorting effect of the dispute therefore probably accounted for some £40 million of the change in imports between September and October. The timing of the dispute fell entirely within the September export month and there was probably sufficient time within this period for the recovery effects to work through. As a result the recorded export figures were unlikely to have been distorted by the dispute.

3 Revisions. A number of generally minor revisions have been made to figures for earlier periods in the light of later information, particularly for exports of fuels and imports of food in the second quarter.

4 Treatment of oil platforms in the May and June import figures. The import figures for May and June include oil platforms valued on an overseas trade statistics basis at around £240 million and £260 million, respectively. The two platforms had been moved to Norway in July last year for completion. As there was no effective change in ownership, the import figures on a balance of payments basis include only the value of additional foreign goods (amounting to about £25 million in May and £50 million in June) used in completing the platforms. This mirrors the treatment adopted for exports in July last year when the value of the platforms was included in the figures on an overseas trade statistics basis but excluded on a balance of payments basis.

During the completion process, expenditure was incurred for services (the value of contracts for finishing the platform other than the supply of major items of equipment) and the estimates of net invisible earnings in recent quarters incorporate appropriate debits.

5 Figures for 1977. The figures for 1977 on an overseas trade statistics basis included in the tables do not yet incorporate the latest information recently published by Customs and Excise in 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1977'. The differences, however, are comparatively small. At the level of total trade, a balance of payments adjustment has been incorporated to reflect the later 1977 figures.

6 Standard notes. Standard notes on definitions and coverage of the figures were published in *Trade and Industry*, 17 February.

Inquiries: Economics and Statistics Division 5A, Room 234, Departments of Industry, Trade, and Prices and Consumer Protection, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5703

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Selective financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972

Regional selective assistance: offers of £10,000 or more

This table shows offers of £10,000 or more made since 31 July 1974 under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 against which a first payment to the company concerned was made in the period 1 July to 30 September 1978. Offers of interest relief grant with a loan equivalent of £10,000 or more are also shown. **Inquiries:** 01-211 4216.

Area and company	Types of assistance committed (see notes at foot of table)		Amount of assistance committed (£)	Standard industrial classification (minimum list) heading): the activity involved is production unless otherwise stated	Location of premises
Scotland					
Albany International Corp (T/A) (J. Kenyon and Son)	IR	A	16 450	Production of man-made fibres	Musselburgh
Arbrook Products Ltd	IR	A	441 000	Chemical industries	Livingston
Baker Oil Tools Ltd (UK)	IR	A	399 000	Machinery	Aberdeen
Bardrec Ltd	LN	C	25 000	Mechanical engineering	Lanark
Black and Edgington Ltd	IR	A	29 375	Made-up textiles	Portglasgow
Buchanan Mining Developments Ltd	IR	A	30 188	Construction	Dunfermline
Caledonian Graphics (Glasgow) Ltd	IR	A	25 200	Printing/publishing	Cumbernauld
Carron Hydraulics Ltd	IR	A	280 500	Pumps/valves/compressors	Kirkcaldy
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd	IR	A	45 900	Women's and girls' tailored outerwear	Grangemouth
Devro Ltd	IR	A	236 670	Sausage casing manufacturers	Bellshill
Diversified Insulation Co Ltd	IR	A	19 950	Synthetic resins and rubber, and plastics	Livingston
D. M. Russell Marine (Rosneath) Ltd	IR	A	28 900	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Helensburgh
Edinburgh Dry Dock Co Ltd	LN	A	40 000	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Leith
Eurocastors Ltd	IR	A	11 750	Metal industries	Glenrothes
Findlay Irvine Ltd	LN	A	30 000	Radio/radar/electronic	Penicuik
G. and J. Rae Ltd	IR	A	24 500	Glass	Dumbarton
G.E.C. Telecommunication Ltd	IR	A	700 000	Telegraph/telephone apparatus and equipment	Kirkcaldy
George Outram and Co Ltd	LN	B2	2 000 000	Printing and publishing newspapers	Bridgeton
Gilliland and Walker Ltd	IR	A	7 875	Bacon processing	Bathgate
Holmes McDougall Ltd	IR RG	A	44 800	Printing/publishing periodicals	Leith
James Miller and Partners Ltd	IR	A	72 500	Construction	Alloa
John Bell (Fabrics of Scotland) Ltd	IR	A	8 750	Woollen and worsted	Lanark
John Lain of Hawick Ltd	IR	A	7 000	Hosiery and knitted goods	Hawick
J. T. Wright (Trowmill) Ltd	IR	A	17 600	Woollen and worsted	Hawick
Lasalle Petroleum Services Ltd	IR	A	39 975	Rubber	Aberdeen
Nairn Floors Ltd	IR	B2	1 176 000	Linoleum, plastics floorcoverings, etc	Kirkcaldy
Ocean Inchcape Ltd	IR	A	55 500	Shipbuilding/marine engineering	Aberdeen
R. M. Clark	IR	A	13 875	Butchers/meat product manufacturers	Stonehaven
Ross Foods Ltd	IR	C	324 000	Frozen food manufacturers	Bellshill
Scottish County Press Ltd	IR	A	8 225	Printing/publishing newspapers	Edinburgh
Sunbeam Wolsey Ltd	IR	A	39 100	Hosiery/knitted goods	Hawick
Total			6 199 583		
Wales					
Avon Rubber Co Ltd	IR	A	21 000	Rubber	Bridgend
Burridge Construction Group Ltd	IR	A	18 000	Construction	Pontyclun
Consolidated Chemicals Ltd	IR	A	26 000	Pharmaceutical chemicals/preparations	Wrexham
Dennis Ruabon Ltd	IR	A	4 200	Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods	Wrexham
Dunlop Ltd	IR	A	20 500	Rubber	Wrexham
Dutton Engineering Ltd	IR	A	12 000	Industrial (inc. process), plant/steelwork	Wrexham
E.M.I. Industrial Electronics Ltd	IR	A	1 200	Radio and electronic components	Treorchy
Eurotec Precision Ltd	IR	A	10 250	Metalworking machine tools	Wrexham
Ferodo Ltd	IR	A	29 750	Textile industries	Caernarvon
F.G. Industries (UK) Ltd	IR RG	A	52 800	Glass	Pontyclun
Ford	IR	A	20 536 725	Motor vehicle manufacturers	Bridgend
Gregor Bros. Ltd	IR	A	18 000	Timber	Swansea
Gwent Steel Ltd	IR	A	6 600	Metal industries	Newport
Lamplight Farms Inc	IR	A	23 000	Metal industries	Llantrisant
L.C.R. Components	IR	A	17 500	Radio/electronic components	Abertillery
Marlais Engineering Co Ltd	IR	A	12 750	Metal industries	Ammanford
Natural Gas Tubes	IR	A	42 000	Steel tubes	Ebbwvale
Newtown Plastics Ltd	IR	A	6 250	Synthetic resins/rubber and plastics	Newtown
Orchequip Ltd	IR	A	4 700	Electrical goods	Cardiff
Sekisui (UK) Ltd	IR	A	100 000	Synthetic resins/rubber and plastics	Merthyr Tydfil
Siebe Gorman and Co Ltd	IR	A	255 000	Mechanical engineering	Cwmbran
Silent Channel Products Ltd	IR	A	14 300	Rubber	Maesteg
The Primograph Co Ltd	IR RG	A	59 400	Metal industries	Brecon
Zimmer Orthopaedic	IR	A	63 000	Surgical instruments and appliances	Bridgend
Total			21 354 925		
Northern					
Angloplas Polythene Ltd	IR	A	2 472	Packaging products/paper/board/associated matter	North Shields
Anzon Ltd	IR	A	82 110	Base metals	Wallsend
Ayton Engineering Ltd	IR	A	3 995	Mechanical engineering	Middlesbrough
Bonas Machine Co Ltd	IR	A	11 000	Textile machinery	Sunderland
Brentford Nylons (1969) Ltd	IR	A	1 428	Hosiery/knitted goods	Cramlington
British Industrial Plastics Ltd	IR RG	A	268 520 67 443	Synthetic resins/rubber Plastics products manufacture	Darlington Maryport
Cumberland Fibres Ltd	LN	A	840 000	Spinning/doubling cotton and flax systems	Stanley
D.J.B. Engineering Ltd	IR	A	680 000	Construction and earth moving equipment	Peterlee
Dudley Foundry Ltd	LN	A	250 000	Iron and steel (general)	Newcastle
George Allinson (Transport) Ltd	IR GR IR GR	A A	71 682 98 212	Road haulage contracting for general hire or reward	Darlington, Stockton and Thornaby
H. George Davis and Co Ltd	IR	A	16 135	Abrasives and building materials	Newcastle
H. Jarvis and Son (Joinery) Ltd	IR	A	5 652	Timber	Redcar
Ingersoll Rand Co Ltd	IR	A	352 800	Pumps, valves and compressors	Gateshead
Kearns-Barker Assoc. Ltd	GR RR	A	45 800	Professional and scientific services	Stockton and Thornaby
Micaply International	IR	A	18 000	Glass	Maryport
Nationaire (Eng) Ltd	IR	A	15 086	Machinery manufacturers	Washington
N.E.I. Parsons Ltd	IR	A	194 040	Machinery manufacturers	Washington
Nightbridge Ltd	IR	A	61 888	Industrial (inc. process) steel and plantwork	Consett
Petrochemical Pipework Construction Ltd	IR	A	102 330	Construction	Sunderland
Robert Lauder and Co Ltd	IR	A	7 420	Timber	Hartlepool
Rohm and Hass (UK) Ltd	IR	A	40 000	Synthetic resins/rubber and plastics products	Jarrow and Hebburn
Smith Bros. (Whitehaven) Ltd	IR	A	8 225	Packaging products/paper board, ass. matter	Workington
Supaflo Eng Ltd	IR GR RR	A	121 692	Scientific services	Hartlepool
Wavin Plastics Ltd	IR IR	A B2	125 400 66 750	Plastics products	Durham Durham
Wests Prochem Ltd	IR GR RR	A	115 080	Research/development services	Darlington
Weyfringe Ltd	IR	A	18 860	Electronic computers	Redcar
Total			4 968 988		
North West					
Accrington Brush Co.	IR	A	2 415	Brushes/brooms	Accrington
Advance Linen Services Ltd	ET RG GR	A	34 280	Laundries	St Helens
Alex J. Clarke Ltd	IR	A	23 100	Metal industry	Warrington
Alloy Transport Bodies Ltd	IR	A	4 025	Motor vehicle manufacturing	Newton Heath
Bettacater Services Ltd	RR RG ET	A	10 500	Retail distribution	Stockport
Boalloy Ltd	IR	A	14 100	Motor vehicle manufacturing	Congleton
British Leyland Ltd	RG	A	79 391	Motor vehicle manufacturing	Chorley
Calder Components Ltd	IR	A	15 975	Plastic products	Colne
Chamberlain Plastics Ltd	IR RG	A	211 500	Paper and board	Skelmersdale
Cupal Ltd	IR	A	10 920	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preps	Blackburn
David Brown Tractors Ltd	IR	A	246 750	Wheeled tractor manufacturers	Leigh
D. H. J. Weisters	IR	A	2 880	Hosiery/knitted goods	Darwen

Area and company	Type of assistance committed (see notes at foot of table)		Amount of assistance committed (£)	Standard industrial classification (minimum list heading): the activity involved is production unless otherwise stated	Location of premises
Donoghue Information Systems Ltd	ET RR	A	27 375	Business services	Hyde
Dresser Europe S.A.	RR	A	60 000	Wholesale distribution	Warrington
Ellis Jones and Co (Stockport) Ltd	IR	A	49 700	General chemicals	Stockport
F. C. Seddon Ltd	IR	A	22 400	Plastic products	Liverpool
Forrest Fabrications Ltd	IR	A	21 150	Mechanical engineering	Bury
GEC Fusegear Ltd	IR	A	147 000	Electrical machinery	Bootle
G. M. Carburettor Co Ltd	IR	A	7 050	Motor vehicle manufacturing	Warrington
Grange Engineering	IR	A	8 044	Machinery	Warrington
Green the Better Confectioner Ltd	IR	A	5 100	Bread and flour confectionery	Accrington
Haddenshaw Ltd	IR	A	12 034	Furniture/upholstery	Glossop
Hargreaves/Gott Ltd	IR	A	2 400	Small tools/gauges	Rochdale
H. G. Allcard and Co Ltd	IR	A	16 862	Lubricating oils and greases	Wythenshawe
Highams Ltd	IR	B2	66 600	Weaving of cotton/linen/man-mades	Royton
Hockenhull and Hayes Ltd	IR	A	3 995	Cooked meat products	Buxton
Jas. Broadley Ltd	IR	A	21 375	Printing/publishing and bookbinding	Blackburn
J. Bibby and Sons Ltd	IR	B2	195 000	Vegetable/animal oils and fats	Liverpool
Joseph Johnson (Bolton) Ltd	IR	A	7 000	Spinning/doubling cotton/flax systems	Radcliffe
Joshua Hoyle and Sons Ltd	IR	B2	125 000	Spinning/doubling cotton/flax systems	Burnley
Karinole Ltd	IR	A	2 820	Hoisery/knitted goods	Manchester
Kerax Ltd	IR	A	2 400	Oil refining	Chorley
Lea and Uttley Ltd	IR	A	4 725	Metal industries	St Helens
Little Hulton Meat Co Ltd	IR	A	3 325	Animal/poultry foods	Atherton
Lytham Marine Ltd	IR	A	6 960	Shipbuilding/marine engineering	Lytham
Mawdsley Bleachers Ltd	IR	A	7 100	Wooden containers and baskets	Wigan
Midland Cattle Products Ltd	IR	A	14 280	Manufacturers of animal by-products	Colne
Mont Engineering Ltd	IR	A	3 910	Mechanical engineering	Eccles
Multybead Ltd	IR	A	1 680	Construction	Royton
National Westminster Bank Ltd	ET RR IR RG	A	48 180	Banking and bill discounting	Manchester
Nelson Tool Co (Stockport) Ltd	IR	A	12 650	Metal working machine tools	Stockport
New England Laminates (UK) Ltd	IR	A	14 400	Radio/electronic components	Skelmersdale
Nita Hardware Manufacturing Co	IR	A	7 130	Metal industries	Glossop
Noonday Graphics (UK) Ltd	IR RG GR RR	A	57 240	Wholesale distribution	Kirkby
Norman Olverson (Scarisbrick) Ltd	IR	A	5 325	Fruit/vegetable products	Ormskirk
Northern Heat Treatments Ltd	IR	A	14 250	Metal industries	Blackburn
Palstow Ltd	IR	A	2 100	Printing/publishing/bookbinding	Manchester
Pfizer Ltd	IR	A	97 020	Pharmaceutical chemicals/preps.	Birkenhead
Plastic Manufacturers Containers B.V.	IR	A	428 969	Plastics products	Runcorn
Silentnight Ltd	IR	A	61 870	Bedding etc	Colne
Snugkoat Ltd	IR	A	2 803	Women's outerwear	Skelmersdale
Stainless Steel Plant Ltd	IR	A	5 600	Industrial (inc. process) plant and steelwork	Blackpool
Tavener Rutledge Ltd	RG	A	14 736	Cocoa/chocolate/sugar confectioners	Liverpool
The Ash Spinning Co Ltd	LN	B	150 000	Spinning/doubling cotton/flax systems	Oldham
The Crumpsall Packing Co Ltd	IR	A	2 975	Plastics products	Manchester
The Enfield Manf. Co Ltd	IR	A	15 120	Made-up textiles	Accrington
Thompson Sheet Metal Ltd	IR	A	2 530	Iron/steel (general)	Hyde
Toms Foods Ltd (Smith's Food Group)	IR	B2	135 450	Fruit/vegetable products	Fleetwood
Tootal Ltd	IR	A	29 900	Textile industry	Glossop
Travenol Laboratories Ltd	RR	A	63 000	Wholesale distribution	Warrington
Unit Controls Holdings Ltd	IR	A	22 200	Pumps/valves/compressors	Stockport
Vanda Beauty Counselor	GRET	A	31 500	Toilet preparations	Skelmersdale
V. G. Micromass Ltd	IR	A	125 725	Scientific and industrial instruments	Altrincham
Vokes Air Filters Ltd	RG ET RR	A	96 100	Central offices	Burnley
William Aitkenhead Ltd	IR	A	29 400	Agricultural machinery	Oldham
Worth Wood Westwood and Co Ltd	IR	A	6 440	Printing/publishing and bookbinding	St Helens
Worsley fabrications Ltd	IR	A	8 880	Industrial (inc. process) steel and plantwork	Warrington
W. R. Anderton and Co Ltd	IR	A	22 100	Mechanical engineering	Grange over Sands
Yardley Plastics Ltd	IR	A	14 490	Synthetic resins/rubber plastics products	Kirkby
Total			3 029 204		
Yorkshire and Humberside					
Aesthetic Dental Services Ltd	IR	A	1 684	Surgical instruments and appliances	Harrogate
Alcan Enfield Alloys Ltd	IR	A	13 584	Aluminium and aluminium alloys	Bradford
Bailee Freight Services Ltd	RR IR GR	A	73 848	Transport services and storage	Middlesbrough
Bluecrest Foods Ltd	IR	A	31 361	Fresh and frozen fish products	Grimsby
Celcon Ltd	IR	A	91 864	Building materials	Goole
Hindle Auto Products Ltd	IR	A	83 154	Mechanical engineering	Bradford
Integrated Modular Services Ltd	IR	A	1 956	Shop/office fitters	Bradford
International Harvester (of GB) Ltd	IR	A	475 000	Wheeled tractor manufacturers	Doncaster
J. H. Walker Ltd	IR	A	203 212	Weaving/doubling cotton/linen/man-made	Dewsbury
Kennel Nutrition Ltd	IR	A	5 060	Animal/poiutry foods	Ripon
L. J. Hydleman and Co Ltd	RG ET	A	10 714	Wholesale distribution	Skipton
M. A. Craven and Son Ltd	IR	A	60 646	Cocoa/chocolate/sugar confectionery	York
Metropes (Engineering) Ltd	IR	A	2 845	Metal working machine tools	Grimsby
N. G. Bailey and Co Ltd	IR	A	15 898	Construction	Bradford
Northern Dairies Ltd	IR	B2	31 972	Milk/milk products	Hull
Omec (Eng) Ltd	IR	A	9 676	Machinery	Castleford
Quarmby/Sykes Ltd	IR	A	7 184	Woollen/worsted	Huddersfield
Ritchey Tagg Ltd	IR	A	3 240	Plastics products	Northallerton
Sandwood Properties Ltd	IR	A	8 532	Furniture/upholstery	Leeds
Shortall Ltd	IR	A	27 884	Furniture/upholstery	Sheffield
Simon-Warman Ltd	IR	A	59 680	Iron castings etc	Todmorden
Smith and Nephew Plastics Ltd	RG ET RR	A	12 250	Wholesale distribution	Hull
Stanley Davis Plant (Nthn) Ltd	IR	A	15 057	Construction	Sheffield
Steel Plant Services (Rotherham) Ltd	IR	A	26 460	Bricks/fireclay/refractory goods	Rotherham
Thomas Hill (Rotherham) Ltd	IR	A	52 186	Locomotives/railway track equipment	Rotherham
Wire Products (W & W. Hawley) Ltd	IR	A	7 488	Wire/wire manufactures	Sheffield
Wm. Lamb and Co (Footwear) Ltd	IR	A	14 732	Footwear	Wakefield
Wm. Wright (Manufacturers) Ltd	IR	A	5 664	Fresh/frozen meat and pastry products	York
Yorkshire Imperial Metals Ltd	IR	A	23 072	Business services	Leeds
Total			1 375 903		
South West					
Bramwell David Ltd	IR	A	19 369	Furniture/upholstery	Falmouth
Clarke, Doble and Brendon Ltd	IR	A	6 000	Printing/publishing and bookbinding	Plymouth
Cygnus Marine Ltd	IR	A	16 663	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Falmouth
Hatfield Instruments Ltd	IR	A	12 120	Radio/electronic components	Plymouth
Henry Cowls and Sons	IR	A	3 442	Rope/twine/net	Helston
Hill and Enderby Ltd	IR	A	46 720	Metal working machine tools	Penzance
J. and J. Couch Ltd	IR	A	25 920	Metal industries	Penzance
Lorna Wiles Designs	IR	A	3 223	Textile finishing	Newquay
Marine Projects (Plymouth) Ltd	IR	A	16 560	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Plymouth
R. and R. Bassett (Eng) Ltd	IR	A	4 620	Metal industries	Hayle
Select Gauges (CPG) Ltd	IR	A	2 730	Engineers small tools and gauges	Devonport
Spanboard Ltd	RG	A	20 556	Timber	Barnstaple
Total			177 923		
East Midlands					
John Anthony Organisation (Nottm) Ltd	IR	A	4 500	Shop/office fitting	Sutton-in-Ashfield
Redcliffe Roadways Ltd	IR	A	12 300	Road haulage contracting for general hire/reward	Sutton-in-Ashfield
Samuel Eden & Son Ltd	IR	A	12 375	Hoisery/knitted goods	Sutton-in-Ashfield
Scotts Cranes Ltd	IR	A	33 600	Construction	Alfreton
Triangle Alloys Ltd	IR	A	18 250	Base metals	Claycross
Watsons Metallurgists Ltd	IR	A	2 700	Base metals	Chesterfield
Total			83 725		
West Midlands					
N. and R. Hughes	IR	A	5 167	Metal industries	Oswestry
Total			5 167		

Total amount of assistance committed	37 195 418
Total amount paid in regional selective assistance during period	23 576 000

Notes

IR:	Interest relief grant	GR:	Grant
RG:	Removal grant	LN:	Loan
RR:	Rent relief grant	A:	New jobs being created
ET:	Employee transfer grant	B:	Preservation of employment

Sectoral assistance under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972

Offers of sectoral assistance amounting to £5,000 or more against which first payments were made to the companies concerned in the period 1 July to 30 September 1978. **Inquiries: 01-211 3931.**

Area and company	Amount of assistance committed (£)
Clothing industry scheme	
London and South East	
John Fairdale Ltd	11 170
S. Gore and Sons Ltd	13 213
H. and E. Hughsley Ltd	9 525
P. Shapira Ltd	96 629
Helerita Fashions Ltd	12 462
A. Grantham Ltd	85 607
Snowman Ltd	6 056
S. Schneiders and Son Ltd	14 964
S. Schneiders and Son Ltd	22 306
Aquascutum (Mnfr) Ltd	8 953
E. Pratsides and Sons Ltd	38 737
East Midlands	
J. B. Armstrong and Co Ltd	10 350
J. B. Armstrong and Co Ltd	7 063
Admiral Sportswear Ltd	6 729
Pelerine Lingerie Ltd	11 009
Nottingham Mnfr Co Ltd	1 194 338
Nottingham Mnfr Co Ltd	212 280
Johnson and Barnes Ltd	8 195
I Way Fashions Ltd	23 175
Richard Stump Ltd	12 006
James Smith and Co (Derby) Ltd	17 948
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Grantwear Ltd	7 978
A. Raven and Co Ltd	7 937
Caddies Wainwright Ltd	10 106
V. Sutcliffe and Sons Ltd	61 543
Hepworths Ltd	29 380
B. R. Gent and Co Ltd	317 353
North West	
Leslie Powell and Co Ltd	6 920
Shudehill Manufacturing Co	11 961
Revelation Shirts	7 750
Perry Blouse Mnfr Co Ltd	20 016
M. Baker (Clothing) Ltd	82 030
Moss and Gregan Ltd	8 400
F. Ellis and Co Ltd	84 921
Eastern	
Gossard Ltd	8 949
Kingsgate (Clothing Productions) Ltd	31 048
Phillips and Piper Ltd	25 439
West Midlands	
William Stannard and Co Ltd	17 138
Foster Brothers Clothing Co Ltd	16 500
Designs by Reflections Ltd	6 850
Silhouette (Salop) Ltd	21 854
Scotland	
F. Miller (Textiles) Ltd	23 400
Samuel Collins Ltd	44 592
Northern	
Astraka Ltd	57 675
H. Edgard and Sons Ltd	22 502
Northern Ireland	
Milford Clothing Co Ltd	5 750
Frazer and Houghton Ltd	10 050
South West	
J. O. Pierson Ltd	53 674
Triumph International Ltd	443 255
Wales	
Northgate Group Ltd	8 433
Electronic components industry scheme	
London and South East	
Mullard Ltd	104 780
East Midlands	
AEI Semiconductors Ltd	470 500
AEI Semiconductors Ltd	259 500
South West	
Phosphor Products Co Ltd	39 097
Magnetic Components Ltd	85 000
Ferrous foundry scheme	
West Midlands	
Barton Conduits Ltd	156 000
British Leyland Beans Foundry	1 452 550
East Midlands	
Tattersall Ltd	76 400
South West	
Exeleigh Foundry Ltd	102 550
R. A. Lister and Co Ltd	1 995 800
North West	
Hattersley Newman Hender Ltd	62 500
Hick Hargreaves and Co Ltd	20 535
British Rail Engineering	108 950
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Hopkinsons Ltd	8 500
Edgar Allen Foundry Ltd	163 250
Johnson Radley Ltd	228 400
RMI (Bingley) Ltd	1 175 750
Northern	
Wilsons Foundry and Engineering Co Ltd	294 300
E. Jopling and Sons Ltd	445 050
London and South East	
British Rail Southern Region	49 750
Instrumentation and automation industry scheme	
Eastern	
Neotronics Ltd	36 323
Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	11 600
Rank Xerox Ltd	600 000
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Goulder Mikron Ltd	12 483
Machine tool industry scheme	
Scotland	
Giddings and Lewis-Fraser Ltd	236 120
Matrix Engineering Ltd	277 070
Northern	
BOC Ltd	79 906
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Crawford-Swift Ltd	196 550
Greenbat Ltd	531 124
John Stirk and Sons Ltd	166 700
Pattinson Brothers Ltd	89 585
North West	
BOC Ltd	11 830
Cross International AG – UK Branch	333 590
Hodgson and Sanders Ltd	43 602
East Midlands	
Adcock-Shipley Division of Textron Ltd	361 546
Dormer Machine Tools Ltd	327 650
West Midlands	
Lyndate Engineering Ltd	32 400
Permat Machines Ltd	22 220
Precision Engineering (Worcester) Ltd	6 693
Stevens and Bullivant Ltd	66 657
T. I. Brookes Ltd	32 082
W. E. Jones Tools Ltd	84 700
South West	
Meddings Machine Tools Ltd	15 520
Schieman Tools Ltd	8 815
Eastern	
Hoddesdon Tool and Engineering Co Ltd	14 000
London and South East	
BOC Ltd	932 428
D. H. Tools Co	5 695
Glass Machine and Equipment Ltd	8 300
Fine Blanking (Shoreham) Ltd	111 997
Rydal Precision Engineering Co (Sales) Ltd	22 537
Non-ferrous foundry industry scheme	
North West	
Manchester Investment Castings Ltd	6 290
West and Musgrave Ltd	16 680
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Brass Founders (Sheffield) Ltd	76 564
Crowther and Gee Ltd	10 290
PMS Diecasting Ltd	21 695
West Midlands	
William Embley Ltd	125 800
John Ireland (Wolverhampton) Ltd	14 387
Phoenix Castings Ltd	115 100
Regon (Clips and Pressings) Ltd	152 638
Zincast Ltd	6 650
Eastern	
High Duty Alloys Castings Ltd	302 000
Light Production Ltd	31 370
London and South East	
M. J. Allen (Non-Ferrous Founders) Ltd	11 165
Futters (London) Ltd	26 600
Industrial Precision Castings	28 580
W. H. Rowe and Son Ltd	36 430
Paper and board industry scheme	
Scotland	
Davidson Radcliffe Ltd	2 119 260
Wales	
Ashton Paper Mill Ltd	93 678
Yorkshire and Humberside	
British Tissues Ltd	83 955
North	
Fourstones Paper Mill Co Ltd	46 584
London and South East	
C. Townsend Hook Ltd	67 500
Poultrymeat processing industry scheme	
North West	
Harrisons (Poultry) Ltd	13 096
Wales	
Country Produce Ltd	242 414
Scotland	
D. C. Watson (Fenton Barns) Ltd	8 500
Printing machinery industry scheme	
North West	
Bennett-Dean Design Ltd	18 000
Simon-Vk Ltd	1 835 322
East Midlands	
Timsons Ltd	196 286
South West	
Masson Scott Thrisell Eng Ltd	459 788
Northern	
Polychrome Ltd	258 679
London and South East	
Rotaprint Ltd	376 393
Redmeat slaughterhouse industry scheme	
East Anglia	
Farmers Pork Distributors Ltd	45 591
West Midlands	
P. J. Preece Esq	11 677
Yorkshire and Humberside	
British Beef Co Ltd	15 600
North West	
James Strange and Co Ltd	27 000
Wales	
E. D. Jones and Son Ltd	24 000
Scotland	
E. C. Matheson and Son Ltd	36 127
Textile machinery industry scheme	
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Greenbat Ltd	208 793
East Midlands	
Samuel Pegg and Son Ltd	28 320

Area and company	Amount of assistance committed (£)
Wool textile industry scheme: second stage	
Yorkshire and Humberside	
J. and H. Rhodes (Wool) Ltd	21 589
Sirdar Ltd	1 017 813
G. Garnett and Sons Ltd	83 644
M. J. and G. Stross Ltd	131 282
Leeds and District Dyers and Finishers Ltd	868 303
Eastern	
Charles Early and Marriott (Witney) Ltd	23 000

Accelerated projects scheme

Announced in the chancellor's budget speech in April 1975, the accelerated projects scheme was a selective scheme to promote counter-cyclical investment and modernisation which would not otherwise have taken place due to the adverse economic climate. The main criteria were that projects should be a net addition to the firm's capital investment programme; that they would be deferred but for government assistance; that they should be commercially sound; and that they should lead to an improvement in the balance of payments.

The table shows offers made since 1 September 1975 against which a first payment was made to the company concerned in the period 1 July to 30 September 1978.

Inquiries: 01-211 7339

Area and company	Product/ activity	Type of assistance [1]	Amount of assistance committed (£)
South West			
West of England Farmers	Animal feeds	IRG	32 430
London and South East			
Batchelor's Food Ltd	Dehydrated meat	IRG	30 000
West Midlands			
Thomas Waterfield	Clothing Industry	IRG	93 000
North West			
Rolls-Royce Motors	Motor vehicles	IRG	265 000
Yorkshire and Humberside			
Hepworth and Grandage	Piston and piston rings for motor vehicle engines	IRG	532 000
Lindsey Oil	Oil refinery	IRG	9 900 000
Northern			
Rohm and Maas	Chemicals	IRG	150 000
Scotland			
Macdonald and Muir	Malt whisky	IRG	75 000

[1] Interest relief grant.

The entry in *Trade and Industry* on 18 August 1978 for the North West should be amended to read as follows:

Area and company	Product/ activity	Type of assistance [1]	Amount of assistance committed (£)
North West			
Shell Chemicals UK Ltd	Industrial chemicals, plastics and pesticides	IRG	4 800 000

[1] Interest relief grant.

Statistics

Full detail of all statistics are published in the 'Index to statistics' to be found towards the end of the magazine.

Selective investment scheme

The selective investment scheme was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in December 1976. The scheme is designed to promote investment projects of £500,000 or more which will, through improved performance, yield significant benefits to the UK economy but which will not proceed on the basis proposed in the absence of assistance. The scheme operates on a selective basis and is directed towards manufacturing industry. Assistance is negotiated individually as the minimum necessary to bring about the additional benefits associated with the project.

The table shows offers made since the announcement of the scheme against which a first payment was made to the company concerned in the period 1 July to 30 September 1978.

Inquiries: 01-211 7339

Area and company	Product/ activity	Type of assistance [1]	Amount of assistance committed (£)
London and South East			
Kenwood Manufacturing Co	Toasters	IRG	111 000
West Midlands			
Brockhouse Ltd	Hydraulic transmission units	IRG	90 000
Triplex Safety Glass	Safety glass	IRG	800 000
Harper and Tunstall Ltd	Office machinery	IRG	120 000
East Midlands			
Revertex Acoustics Products	Noise control	IRG	175 000
Draftex Ltd	Car seals for doors, boots and bonnets	IRG	140 000
South West			
Walls Meat Co Ltd	Meat products	IRG	390 000
Alenco Ltd	Hydraulic components	IRG	80 000

[1] Interest relief grant.

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in December

Information in the table is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in December. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date and series	Method of release	Source
December		
4 Mon		
UK official reserves (Nov)	PN	HM Treasury
Wholesale price index numbers (Nov – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
Retail sales (Oct – final)	PN	Department of Trade
Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of Nov)	PN	Bank of England
Public sector borrowing requirement and details of local authority borrowing (3rd qtr)	PN	CSO
Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Oct)	PN	Department of Trade
5 Tues		
London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Nov)	PN	CLCB
UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Nov)	PN	Bank of England
6 Wed		
United Kingdom balance of payments (3rd qtr)	PN	CSO
Housing starts and completions (Oct)	PN	Department of the Environment
Construction – output (3rd qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
7 Thurs		
Provisional figures of vehicle production (Nov)	PN	Department of Industry
Survey of short-term export prospects (13th survey – Oct)	PN	Department of Trade
8 Fri		
Company liquidity survey (3rd qtr)	*Trade and Industry*	Department of Industry
11 Mon		
Central government financial transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Nov)	PN	HM Treasury
Retail sales (Nov – prov)	PN	Department of Trade
12 Tues		
Building Societies' receipts and loans (Nov)	PN	BSA
13 Wed		
Index of industrial production (Oct – prov)	PN	CSO
14 Thurs		
UK banking sector statistics (3rd qtr)	*Bulletin*	Bank of England
Financing of the Central Government Borrowing Requirement (3rd qtr)	*Bulletin*	Bank of England
Money stock (3rd qtr)	*Bulletin*	Bank of England
Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Nov)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Nov)	PN	Bank of England
London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Nov)	PN	Bank of England
15 Fri		
Usable steel production (Nov)	PN	BSC/BISPA
Retail prices index (Nov)	PN	Department of Employment
Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Nov)	PN	CSO
17 Sun		
Department for National Savings' monthly progress report (Nov)	PN	Department for National Savings
18 Mon		
National food survey report on consumption (3rd qtr)	PN	MAFF
CBI Monthly Trends Inquiry (Dec)	PN	CBI
19 Tues		
Unemployment (Dec – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
Unfilled vacancies (Dec – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
Gross domestic product (3rd qtr – prov)	PN	CSO
20 Wed		
Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Nov)	PN	Department of Employment
Monthly index of average earnings (Oct)	PN	Department of Employment
Construction – new orders (Oct)	PN	Department of the Environment
21 Thurs		
Car and commercial vehicle production (Nov – final)	PN	Department of Industry
Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (3rd qtr – rev)	PN	Department of Industry
Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (3rd qtr – rev)	PN	Department of Industry
Bricks and cement production (Nov)	PN	Department of the Environment
22 Fri		
Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Sep)	*Trade and Industry*	Department of Industry
Quarterly analysis of bank advances (mid-Nov)	PN	Bank of England
New vehicle registrations (Nov)	PN	Department of Transport
28 Thurs		
Energy Trends	PN	Department of Energy

Wholesale textile houses: sales and stocks in September

Sales by wholesale textile houses in September showed an increase of 11 per cent on a year earlier, compared with an increase of 12 per cent in July and an increase of 29 per cent in August.

The value of stocks at the end of September showed an increase of 10 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Inquiries: These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP, tel. 01-580 2902.

Table 1 Textiles: wholesale sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	−3	..	..
1967	104	−5	..	..
1968	108	4	..	..
1969	103	−5	..	..
1970	107	4	..	..
1971	115	8	..	..
1972	121	5	..	..
1973	134	11	..	..
1974	147	9	..	..
1975	147	1	..	..
1976	146	−1	..	..
1977	149	2	..	..
1976 1st quarter	133	−8	234	7
2nd quarter	127	−6	212	8
3rd quarter	149	2	204	6
4th quarter	176	8	228	2
1977 1st quarter	140	5	252	7
2nd quarter	125	−2	224	6
3rd quarter	153	3	214	5
4th quarter	180	2	228	—
1978 1st quarter	144	3	234	−7
2nd quarter	141	13	222	−1
3rd quarter	179	17	234	10
1977 September	199	3	214	5
October	201	9	212	2
November	163	−4	245	7
December	175	—	228	—
1978 January	91	7	213	−3
February	149	1	224	−10
March	191	3	234	−7
April	138	−1	211	−8
May	148	15	231	−4
June	138	28	222	−1
July	133	12	240	1
August	183	29	239	5
September	221	11	234	10

Table 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks [2]
	Sep 1978	Jan-Sep 1978	Sep 1978
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	14	4	−16
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	30	36	− 27
Women's underwear	9	4	−18
Women's hose and children's socks	−2	−	48
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	18	8	−
Children's wear	−7	−15	−25
Men's and boys' ready made clothing and overalls	17	7	5
Gloves	19	11	−10
Piece-goods and nets	−15	−14	104
Household textiles	11	−	−2
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	17	23	45
Boots and shoes	1	−7	29
Total [1]	11	11	10

[1] Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
[2] Values at cost.

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, tel. 01-606 6699. ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom, and these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

Index of industrial production in September

The latest figures suggest that industrial output, after rising sharply between the first and second quarters of the year, remained at much the same level during the summer months.

Before any adjustment (apart from regular seasonal factors), the provisional estimates show that the average level of the all industries' index in the third quarter was ½ per cent below its level in the second quarter and the corresponding index for manufacturing industries showed little change. The analysis by broad market sector suggests that, over the same period, the output of the consumer goods industries fell by ½ per cent, the output of the investment goods industries rose by 1 per cent, and the output of the intermediate goods industries fell by ½ per cent.

As an aid to interpretation of movements in the economy, the quarterly figures shown below represent industrial production by all industries other than those engaged in exploration for, and extraction of, mineral oil, natural gas and natural gas condensates on land and offshore:

1977 1st qtr	102.2	1978 1st qtr	102.3
2nd	101.4	2nd	105.4
3rd	102.3	3rd	104.8
4th	101.5		

Notes

Data for the period April to August 1978 have been revised in the light of later information, principally for other manufacturing industries.

The index numbers are all seasonally adjusted. The seasonal adjustment process is designed to remove annually recurring month to month variations due, for example, to the incidence of holidays and other regular seasonal patterns of behaviour. The adjustments, however, can in general only be derived from analysis of past experience and may not be completely appropriate when holiday patterns change sharply. Changes in recent years in the amount and incidence of industrial holidays taken between Christmas and New Year's Day and around the Spring Bank Holiday may not be fully reflected in the seasonally adjusted estimates.

The provisional estimates for May and June in recent years are particularly vulnerable to distortions because of holiday effects. The Spring Bank Holiday was taken on 6 June in 1977 in England and Wales and an extra public holiday was taken throughout the United Kingdom on 7 June 1977. In 1978, the Spring Bank Holiday reverted to May and a new public holiday introduced on 1 May. The current assessment of the underlying level of industrial production makes broad allowance for these effects.

Inquiries: 01-233 7239.

Index of industrial production: summary

Average 1975 = 100

	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Total manufacturing industries	Manufacturing industries: Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering and allied industries	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing	Construction	Gas, electricity and water
Weights	1 000	810	41	697	77	66	47	298	67	142	182	80
1973	109.5	107.6	110.2	108.4	103.2	107.7	125.1	103.5	111.3	114.7	118.2	99.3
1974	105.1	105.0	90.0	106.5	102.5	110.5	114.5	104.6	103.6	109.5	105.8	99.2
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	102.7	125.7	101.4	102.7	111.4	106.8	97.0	100.9	103.9	98.5	102.9
1977	105.8	107.5	187.6	102.9	103.9	114.6	102.0	99.2	101.6	105.7	98.0	107.0
1977 1st qtr	105.6	107.6	174.1	103.9	105.2	115.9	102.6	99.4	104.0	107.6	96.1	106.5
2nd	105.5	107.5	191.1	102.4	103.6	114.5	102.4	99.0	100.9	104.1	96.6	108.9
3rd	106.3	108.1	190.6	103.3	102.6	114.3	107.8	99.9	101.3	105.2	98.5	107.6
4th	105.9	107.0	194.7	102.1	104.1	113.5	95.2	98.7	100.2	106.0	100.7	105.2
1978 1st qtr	107.1	108.6	208.8	102.5	106.4	111.6	95.4	100.8	97.2	104.4	101.5	108.3
2nd	111.1	112.0	231.0	105.0	107.7	117.0	108.2	100.7	99.4	108.6	107.4	111.0
3rd	110.6	111.9	236.4	104.8	104.6	117.7	102.3	101.6	100.6	108.5		109.1
1977 Oct	105.7	106.7	195	101.8	103	113	98	98	101	106		105
Nov	105.6	106.6	191	101.7	105	114	88	98	99	107		107
Dec	106.4	107.6	198	102.8	105	114	99	100	101	105		104
1978 Jan	106.9	108.3	205	102.4	108	111	91	101	97	104		108
Feb	107.4	108.9	215	102.2	106	110	95	101	98	105		111
Mar	107.1	108.5	207	102.9	105	114	100	101	97	104		106
Apr	111.4	112.3	223	105.5	106	117	107	101	103	110		114
May	110.1	110.8	234	103.7	107	116	106	100	97	106		110
Jun	111.7	112.8	236	105.9	111	119	112	101	98	110		109
Jul	111.1	112.5	237	105.2	104	119	113	101	101	107		111
Aug	110.9	112.3	238	105.2	104	118	93	103	101	110		109
Sep p	109.8	110.9	234	104.0	105	116	101	100	99	109		107
Percentage change latest three months on:												
1. previous three months	−0.4	−0.1	2.4	−0.2	−2.9	0.6	−5.4	0.9	1.2	−0.1		−1.7
2. a year earlier	4.0	3.5	24.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	−5.0	1.7	−0.7	3.2		1.4

p Provisional.

Index of industrial production: detailed analysis

Average 1975 = 100

	Mining and quarrying		Food, drink and tobacco		Chemicals, coal and petroleum products		Metal manufacture		Engineering and allied industries				
	Coal mining	Other mining and quarrying	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total engineering	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering
Weights	34	7	54	23	9	57	35	12	170	92	12	66	14
1973	103.3	142.5	106.0	96.3	120.6	105.8	127.8	116.9	98.4	97.2	92.4	101.3	95.4
1974	85.5	110.8	104.0	99.1	115.9	109.7	114.8	113.7	102.3	101.3	98.7	104.5	98.9
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	92.8	277.9	103.2	101.6	105.7	112.2	106.9	106.7	96.5	95.1	96.6	98.5	96.5
1977	90.1	638.3	105.0	101.2	102.7	116.3	99.8	108.5	97.3	93.2	98.7	102.7	91.7
1977													
1st qtr	91.5	555.7	106.5	102.2	105.4	117.5	99.2	112.4	98.3	95.9	96.3	102.0	91.0
2nd	91.1	653.5	105.1	100.2	102.7	116.3	100.4	108.2	96.4	92.6	99.3	101.3	93.1
3rd	89.9	656.0	104.5	97.9	102.2	116.1	107.9	107.3	97.6	93.1	99.7	103.4	97.9
4th	88.0	687.8	103.9	104.6	100.4	115.5	91.6	106.1	96.8	91.3	99.4	104.1	84.7
1978													
1st qtr	90.4	755.7	105.6	108.2	98.7	113.6	92.2	105.1	98.7	92.1	100.4	107.6	94.9
2nd	89.1	886.7	107.1	108.9	98.3	119.8	108.1	108.6	100.0	92.8	106.0	108.9	92.9
3rd	90.0	913.1	105.2	103.1	105.5	119.5	99.1	112.1	101.6	93.6	104.0	112.2	90.0
1977													
Oct	88	691	102	104	98	115	95	107	97	91	99	104	82
Nov	87	668	105	105	98	116	83	105	97	91	99	104	90
Dec	88	704	105	105	104	116	96	107	97	91	100	104	82
1978													
Jan	89	740	109	107	97	113	87	103	98	92	99	107	95
Feb	91	787	103	111	95	113	92	103	99	92	100	108	96
Mar	91	740	104	108	104	115	97	109	99	92	101	109	94
Apr	91	835	104	110	98	119	104	115	100	93	106	108	86
May	87	909	108	105	99	118	106	105	100	93	106	109	93
Jun	89	916	110	112	98	122	114	106	100	93	106	110	100
Jul	91	914	105	101	107	121	113	113	101	93	104	111	92
Aug	90	924	105	103	105	120	86	112	102	94	104	112	92
Sep	90	902	105	105	104	118	97	111	102	94	104	113	86
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	1.0	3.0	−1.8	−5.3	7.3	−0.2	−8.3	3.1	1.6	0.9	−1.8	3.0	−3.1
2. a year earlier	−0.1	39.2	0.6	5.4	3.2	3.0	−8.2	4.5	4.1	0.6	4.3	8.6	−8.0

	Engineering and allied industries (continued)				Textiles, leather and clothing			Other manufacturing					
	Total vehicles	Motor vehicles	Other vehicles	Metal goods not elsewhere specified	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total bricks, pottery, glass, etc	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries
Weights	68	43	25	46	40	3	24	28	17	11	25	58	31
1973	113.3	118.8	103.5	110.3	117.1	107.1	102.1	113.7	120.7	103.5	118.9	115.7	110.2
1974	108.9	110.8	105.6	108.7	105.9	98.7	100.2	107.2	109.1	104.4	101.9	115.5	106.8
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	97.2	100.2	91.9	98.6	103.0	102.3	97.1	101.0	99.1	103.8	103.9	102.5	109.0
1977	102.1	107.2	92.9	104.7	101.0	97.1	103.2	99.8	93.8	108.4	98.0	106.8	115.5
1977													
1st qtr	100.7	106.9	89.7	104.5	105.4	102.4	101.8	100.0	93.6	109.3	100.2	108.3	119.1
2nd	103.6	109.0	94.0	103.6	100.0	95.9	103.0	99.5	93.0	108.8	94.2	106.7	111.7
3rd	101.8	106.1	94.3	106.2	100.5	95.2	103.4	100.5	93.6	110.6	98.3	105.7	114.3
4th	102.1	107.0	93.6	104.6	98.0	94.8	104.7	99.2	95.1	105.1	99.2	106.6	116.7
1978													
1st qtr	105.9	113.3	92.6	103.3	96.6	90.3	99.1	96.1	89.2	106.2	96.6	105.9	115.6
2nd	102.9	107.9	93.9	102.6	99.3	104.0	99.1	100.3	90.6	114.4	103.7	108.6	120.3
3rd	102.4	107.7	93.0	104.0	100.3	97.3	101.6	99.0	89.6	112.6	103.4	109.3	120.1
1977													
Oct	101	105	93	104	98	95	105	99	93	107	102	105	116
Nov	100	104	94	105	98	95	103	100	94	108	101	107	117
Dec	105	112	94	106	98	95	106	99	98	100	94	107	117
1978													
Jan	103	117	93	104	97	90	97	96	90	105	94	105	120
Feb	105	112	93	103	97	90	99	97	88	109	98	106	114
Mar	105	111	93	103	95	90	101	96	89	104	99	107	113
Apr	104	110	94	106	104	104	103	103	92	118	106	108	124
May	104	110	94	98	97	104	96	99	89	114	100	107	115
Jun	100	104	94	103	97	104	99	99	90	111	105	111	122
Jul	103	108	93	103	99	97	105	98	88	112	102	106	120
Aug	107	114	93	107	103	97	100	100	90	113	103	112	120
Sep p	98	101	93	102	99	97	100	100	91	112	105	110	120
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	−0.5	−0.2	−1.0	1.4	1.0	−6.4	2.4	−1.3	−1.1	−1.5	−0.3	0.7	−0.2
2. a year earlier	0.5	1.5	−1.4	−2.0	−0.2	2.2	−1.8	−1.5	−4.2	1.9	5.2	3.4	5.1

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PQ 442 Men's and boy's tailored outerwear for second quarter 1978
PQ 444 Overalls and men's shirts, underwear, etc, for second quarter 1978
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Business Monitors in the production series and miscellaneous series, and certain monitors (nos. SD 1 to SD 9) in the service and distributive series, are available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the library at the Business Statisics Office, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121 – answer back BSONPT G).

Engineering sales and orders up to August

Sic orders VII, VIII and IX

The provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted index number of engineering sales and orders up to August present a generally stable picture of the sector over recent months. The home market in particular appears to have been almost static since the beginning of the year and although the export sector has shown some changes over this period these have been relatively minor.

The trend in total sales was unchanged between May and August reflecting a minor fall in home sales and a rise of similar proportions in exports. The trend in new orders increased by about 1 per cent between May and August entirely due to a 2½ per cent increase in new orders from abroad. There was, therefore, little change in the length of total order books in the engineering sector over this period.

The home sales trend index has shown only small deviations from the base year level since the beginning of 1976 apart from a minor setback in the second half of 1977 which was foreshadowed by a decline in home new orders. The trend of the latter, however, recovered in the last months of 1977 and has remained unchanged since January 1978. In similar fashion the trend in home order books has remained remarkably constant (although at a low level) since the beginning of the year.

Export sales have exhibited a level trend throughout 1978, turning up only marginally in August. The trend in new export orders also revived by a relatively small amount in the latest three months to end a series of consecutive falls which began at the end of 1976. The resultant effect has been that export orders on hand have fallen somewhat during 1978 and in August were at their lowest level for more than 1½ years.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Inquiry relating to August 1978. The response rate of 76 per cent to the inquiry for August is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for May, June and July response rates for these months were 93, 91 and 86 per cent respectively.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £4.32 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

The same nine series are given for each of the 36 industries within engineering in a quarterly Business Monitor PQ 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), also obtainable from HMSO for a subscription of £1.56 per annum.

Inquiries: 01-212 5770.

Volume index numbers for the combined engineering industries up to August

	Total			Home			Export		
	1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100		1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100		1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100	
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales
Ratio: orders-on-hand/av. monthly sales in 1970 [1]	6.7			6.3			7.6		
Trend estimates									
1976 p									
July	87	102	105	80	93	100	105	128	120
August	88	105	105	79	94	99	107	135	120
September	88	107	105	78	95	99	110	140	121
October	88	108	106	78	96	100	112	141	122
November	89	109	106	77	97	100	114	139	123
December	89	109	107	77	98	100	116	137	123
1977 p									
January	89	108	107	77	98	100	118	135	124
February	89	108	107	76	98	100	119	133	124
March	89	107	107	76	98	100	120	132	125
April	89	106	106	76	97	99	120	131	126
May	89	106	106	75	96	98	121	131	128
June	89	105	106	75	96	97	121	131	130
July	89	105	106	75	96	97	121	129	131
August	89	105	106	75	96	97	120	128	130
September	89	105	105	75	97	96	120	126	129
October	89	106	105	75	99	96	120	126	127
November	89	107	105	76	100	97	120	126	126
December	89	108	106	76	101	98	120	126	126
1978 p									
January	90	108	107	77	102	100	119	126	126
February	90	108	108	77	102	101	119	125	127
March	89	108	109	77	102	102	119	123	127
April	89	107	109	77	102	102	118	121	127
May	89	107	109	77	102	102	117	120	127
June	89	107	108	77	102	101	116	121	127
July	88	107	108	77	102	101	115	123	127
August	88	107	109	77	102	101	115	123	128
Percentage change [2] May-August 1978	−0.5	+1.0	–	–	–	−0.5	−2.0	+2.5	+0.5
Seasonally adjusted									
1970	99	100	100	99	100	100	99	101	100
1971	90	94	99	92	96	99	84	90	100
1972	96	104	100	100	107	103	89	96	92
1973	127	129	111	127	129	114	128	128	103
1974	128	115	115	122	110	113	142	128	119
1975	97	93	110	90	89	106	112	103	121
1976 p	89	101	105	77	92	99	117	124	122
1977 p	90	107	106	76	98	98	121	129	127
1976 p									
1st qtr	92	94	104	86	88	97	108	110	122
2nd	88	95	106	81	91	101	102	107	122
3rd	88	106	105	79	95	100	108	135	120
4th	89	109	105	77	95	99	117	144	123
1977 p									
1st qtr	89	108	107	76	100	101	119	131	124
2nd	89	105	106	75	95	98	121	133	129
3rd	89	106	106	75	97	97	120	130	131
4th	90	106	104	76	100	97	121	125	123
1978 p									
1st qtr	89	109	110	77	103	102	118	124	130
2nd	88	106	108	76	101	101	115	118	125
1977 p									
January	89	111	111	77	104	104	117	131	129
February	89	111	108	77	102	102	118	133	123
March	89	103	103	76	93	97	119	129	120
April	89	110	108	76	99	100	120	139	129
May	90	107	104	76	96	96	122	137	126
June	89	100	107	75	91	98	121	122	131
July	88	104	108	75	99	99	119	118	132
August	89	110	105	75	98	96	121	142	129
September	89	104	107	75	94	97	120	129	133
October	89	107	106	75	99	97	120	128	129
November	89	100	101	76	98	94	118	106	121
December	90	113	105	76	102	99	121	141	120
1978 p									
January p	89	106	109	77	105	101	118	110	131
February	91	119	107	77	105	100	121	155	127
March	89	101	112	77	98	104	118	108	133
April	89	102	106	76	98	100	117	112	123
May	89	115	110	77	107	104	118	138	128
June	88	99	108	76	98	101	115	104	126
July	89	109	107	77	106	100	115	119	125
August	88	110	110	77	99	102	115	139	132
March-May 1978 (av)	89	106	109	77	101	103	118	119	128
June-Aug 1978 (av.)	88	106	108	77	101	101	115	121	128
Percentage change [2]	−1.0	–	−1.0	–	–	−1.5	−2.5	+1.0	−0.5

Notes to table

[1] This ratio shows the number of months work in the order book in the base year at the then average rate of sales. [2] For orders-on-hand the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point. p Provisional.

Patents recorded 'licences of right'

Under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977 the register was noted 'licences of right' in respect of the following patents on the date specified:

6 November 1978

1130696 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Process for producing a homopolymer or copolymer of ethylene and catalysts therefor

1195650 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Method for polymerising ethylene by use of novel catalyst system

1234736 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Polymerisation of ethylene

1296881 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
The production of fibrous material and paper therefrom

1280578 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Process for producing higher olefins

1317632 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Olefinic polymer

1318001 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Catalyst and process for polymerising ethylene

1317994 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Catalyst and process for polymerising ethylene

1346810 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Thermoplastic resin composition

1378915 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Process for producing a block copolymer

1388456 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Process for producing a block copolymer

1410645 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Plastics filter press plate

1418152 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Catalyst and process for ethylene polymerisation

1429397 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Dyestuff acceptor for synthetic resins

1431840 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Process for producing a foamed polyprophylene sheet

1436444 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Irrigation hose

1444664 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Process and apparatus for producing polyolefin pulp

1453872 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Laminated corrugated plastics board and method and apparatus for the preparation thereof

1454420 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Method for transferring a relief pattern from a resin masterplate to thermoplastic resin material

1456759 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Production of cross-linked open-celled foam of an olefin polymer

1458209 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Producing a matrix from an original plate having a relief image

1467477 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Extrusion moulding method

1472842 Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd
Thermoplastic resin composition

1168622 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
An improved bearing

1170743 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improvements in upholstered articles

1196738 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Steering column

1211858 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improvements in rotary-piston internal combustion engines

1285993 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improvements in or relating to spring washers

1402662 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improvements in or relating to gear change mechanisms

1443437 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improvements in or relating to gear boxes for motor vehicles

1456832 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improved gas torch for soldering

1469187 Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd
Improvements in or relating to vehicle head lamp assemblies

1411604 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Threshold switch

1434638 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Radio direction finding equipment

1442285 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Ceramic dielectric

1478380 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Phased array antenna

1482086 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Crystal controlled oscillator arrangement

1485629 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Improvements in or relating to telecommunication switching systems

1485630 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Improvements in or relating to telephone exchanges

1145457 International Standard Electric Corporation
Equaliser for time varying channels

1423857 International Standard Electric Corporation
Method of manufacturing a sealed electrical contact unit

1439788 International Standard Electric Corporation
Sealed electrical contact unit capable of being magnetically actuated and arrangement thereof

1446410 International Standard Electric Corporation
Electronic feeding bridge for a telephone line

1454827 International Standard Electric Corporation
Fault detection process and system time-division switching network

1512009 Agfa-Gevaert
Device for unloading radiographic cassettes

1513140 Agfa-Gevaert
Direct-positive silver halide emulsions

Any persons who claims that the proprietor of the patent is, and was at the time of entry, precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patent may, within three months after the making of the relevant entry, apply to the Comptroller on Patents Form 31/77 for cancellation of the entry.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Turnover of the motor trades in third quarter 20 pc up on last year

Turnover of the motor trades in the third quarter of 1978 was 20 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 1977. On the same comparison, new vehicle sales increased by 34 per cent, used vehicle sales increased by 23 per cent and other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol and oil, tyres, spares and accessories and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 8 per cent.

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rates of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The estimates for the second quarter have been revised to take account of additional information from late returns.

The figures are not seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover in a base year (1972) obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to motor traders.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

Turnover of the motor trades: index numbers

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage change compared with a year earlier in brackets — 1972 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1972 (£ million)	(8 109)	(3 089)	(1 373)	(3 647)
1972	100	100	100	100
1973	111 (+11)	110 (+10)	102 (+2)	115 (+15)
1974	119 (+7)	106 (−3)	100 (−2)	137 (+19)
1975	143 (+20)	123 (+16)	128 (+28)	166 (+21)
1976	174 (+22)	159 (+29)	158 (+24)	192 (+16)
1977	212 (+22)	202 (+27)	195 (+23)	228 (+18)
1972				
1st qtr	95	94	100	93
2nd	105	109	107	101
3rd	102	101	103	104
4th	98	96	90	102
1973				
1st qtr	117 (+23)	126 (+34)	119 (+18)	109 (+17)
2nd	110 (+5)	110 (+1)	103 (−3)	113 (+12)
3rd	114 (+12)	111 (+10)	108 (+5)	119 (+15)
4th	102 (+4)	93 (−3)	80 (−12)	118 (+16)
1974				
1st qtr	108 (−8)	102 (−20)	87 (−27)	120 (+10)
2nd	122 (+11)	112 (+2)	106 (+3)	136 (+20)
3rd	126 (+11)	110 (−1)	111 (+3)	146 (+22)
4th	121 (+18)	102 (+10)	95 (+20)	147 (+24)
1975				
1st qtr	137 (+27)	127 (+25)	116 (+33)	152 (+27)
2nd	148 (+21)	129 (+15)	136 (+27)	168 (+23)
3rd	152 (+21)	131 (+19)	143 (+29)	174 (+19)
4th	135 (+12)	105 (+3)	117 (+23)	168 (+15)
1976				
1st qtr	166 (+22)	161 (+27)	153 (+32)	175 (+15)
2nd	176 (+19)	162 (+25)	170 (+26)	189 (+12)
3rd	178 (+17)	159 (+22)	167 (+17)	199 (+15)
4th	176 (+30)	155 (+48)	143 (+22)	205 (+22)
1977				
1st qtr	203 (+22)	199 (+23)	189 (+24)	211 (+21)
2nd	210 (+20)	197 (+22)	196 (+15)	226 (+19)
3rd	230 (+29)	220 (+39)	215 (+29)	243 (+22)
4th	207 (+18)	191 (+23)	179 (+25)	230 (+12)
1978				
1st qtr	257 (+27)	289 (+45)	233 (+23)	240 (+14)
2nd (revised)	268 (+28)	283 (+43)	264 (+34)	258 (+14)
3rd	276 (+20)	295 (+34)	266 (+23)	263 (+8)

New companies in October

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during October 1978 showing nominal capital. The figures exclude unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Inquiries: Cardiff (2220) 388588 ext. 2226.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	3 452	—	3 452
Over £100 but under £1 000	65	—	65
£1 000 but under £10 000	1 155	—	1 155
£10 000 but under £50 000	578	—	578
£50 000 but under £100 000	101	—	101
£100 000 but under £1 000 000	124	—	124
£1 000 000 and over	7	—	7
Total number	5 482	—	5 482
	£ thous	£ thous	£ thous
Total amount of nominal capital	41 488	—	41 488

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1977 and 1978

	1977		1978	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous	Number	Nominal capital £ thous
January	3 225	30 825	4 555	31 447
February	4 330	34 505	4 316	38 325
March	5 843	49 266	6 024	52 299
April	5 499	41 860	5 031	47 396
May	4 097	27 086	5 939	59 998
June	4 169	61 951	5 023	45 806
July	4 172	34 238	5 264	57 870
August	4 242	42 331	5 087	50 191
September	4 527	51 261	5 484	92 414
October	4 404	37 741	5 482	41 488
November	5 007	33 987		
December	5 005	30 739		
Total	54 520	474 790		

Index of retail prices for October

The index of retail prices for all items for 17 October, 1978 was 201.1 (15 January, 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 0.4 per cent on September 1978 (200.2) and of 7.8 per cent on October 1977 (186.5).

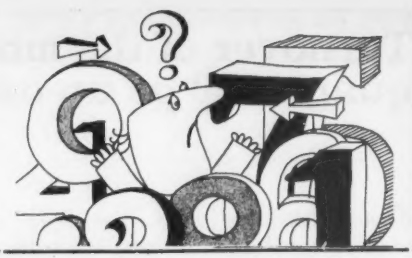
The rise in the index in October was the result of increases in housing and motoring costs and, to a lesser extent, of increases in the levels of prices of clothing and footwear, cigarettes, wines and spirits and other goods and services except food, fuel and light. These increases were partially offset by the lower prices for seasonal foods, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables.

The movements for the main group in the index are shown in table 2.

Inquiries: Watford 28500 ext. 630.

Table 1 Index of retail prices

	All items				All items except seasonal foods		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	6 months	12 months	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	6 months
1978							
May	195.7	+0.6	+4.4	+7.7	196.1	+0.6	+4.2
June	197.2	+0.8	+4.7	+7.4	197.2	+0.6	+4.3
July	198.1	+0.5	+4.5	+7.8	198.7	+0.8	+4.5
August	199.4	+0.7	+4.6	+8.0	200.4	+0.9	+4.7
September	200.2	+0.4	+4.4	+7.8	201.4	+0.5	+4.7
October	201.1	+0.4	+3.3	+7.8	202.4	+0.5	+3.8



Price Commission index for October

The rise in the Price Commission index over the six months to October was 4.7 per cent expressed as an annual rate. The corresponding figure for September was 4.3 per cent.

The Price Commission index is based on price increases proposed to the commission by larger concerns. They cannot make the increase until 28 days after notifications and in practice the time lag may be greater than this.

The table and chart compares movements in the commission index with other official price indices over the six months in terms of annual rates. **Inquiries:** 01-720 2188.

Percentage changes over six-month periods in Price Commission index, retail price index and wholesale price index : annualised rates

Six months to	Price Commission index	Retail price index [1]	Wholesale price index [2]
1977			
January	18.2	18.0	25.2
February	19.0	18.4	24.5
March	20.8	18.7	23.4
April	17.4	19.7	25.2
May	16.1	20.0	23.7
June	15.0	19.6	24.0
July	14.3	15.6	18.6
August	11.5	14.9	16.7
September	7.8	14.1	15.6
October	7.3	9.9	11.7
November	5.8	8.7	8.6
December	6.0	7.4	7.1
1978			
January	5.9	7.2	7.2
February	7.2	7.2	7.7
March	7.4	6.8	7.9
April	7.2	8.4	7.9
May	6.8	8.6	8.7
June	6.1	8.9	8.9
July	5.8	9.1	7.6
August	4.5	9.6	7.6
September	4.3	9.6	7.6
October	4.7 p	..	7.4

[1] Excluding seasonal foods. [2] Manufactured products. p Provisional.

Coming soon

Who gets what from the British film fund

From the end of January 1979, details of amounts distributed from the British Film Fund (the Eady levy) for individual films will be published in *Trade and Industry* at regular intervals.

Each levy year is divided into 11 periods, the first of nine weeks and the others of four and five weeks each. It is intended to publish details of distributions made in each period and yearly totals. The first announcement, for the first nine-week period of the current Eady year (which started on 24 September), will be published towards the end of January 1979.

At the end of each period, a table will be published showing the titles of the films for which payments of over £100 have been made in that period, listed under the headings of high-cost feature films, low-cost feature films and short films.

Against each title will be shown the date of registration, the Eady payment made for each film during the period, and the name of the person who received the payment. The date of registration will provide a cross-reference to the names of the maker and the distributor and the running time of the film through the weekly registration details already published in *Trade and Industry*.

As soon as possible after the end of each Eady year, a table will be published showing the total payments in respect of each film for which there have been distributions in the previous 11 periods and, after the first year, details of previous years' figures, adjusted where appropriate.

Payments of less than £100 will be included in the annual lists, as well as distribution for newsreels. There will also be a note of approved grants from the British Film Fund in favour of those bodies authorised to receive them – the British Film Institute, the Children's Film Foundation, the National Film School and the National Film Development Fund.

Table 2 Index of retail prices: commodity breakdown

	Indices (15 Jan 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	12 Sep 1978	17 Oct 1978	
All items	200.2	201.1	+0.4
All items excluding food	198.6	199.8	+0.6
Food	206.3	205.6	−0.3
Seasonal food	173.1	168.2	−2.8
Other food	212.6	212.7	+0.0
Alcoholic drink	197.5	198.4	+0.5
Tobacco	229.2	231.1	+0.8
Housing	178.6	180.5	+1.1
Fuel and light	230.6	230.3	−0.1
Durable household goods	184.9	185.9	+0.5
Clothing and footwear	174.0	175.3	+0.7
Transport and vehicles	210.8	211.8	+0.5
Miscellaneous goods	210.3	212.6	+1.1
Services	194.2	195.2	+0.5
Meals out	211.4	213.2	+0.9

New films registration forms

New forms of application for the registration of films should be used after 1 January 1979, when the Films (Registration) (Amendment) (Regulations) 1978 come into force. The present form A (application for registration of a film other than a co-production film), and form ACP (application for registration of a co-production film) will be discontinued and a new registration form A takes the place of both of them. After registration is complete, part of this new form will be returned to the applicant as the registration certificate.

The present form B (evidence that a film has been trade shown) and its accompanying statutory declaration have been similarly combined into a new registration form B.

A new question appears on form C (evidence of British nature of a film) asking whether the film was made wholly or mainly for the purpose of commercial advertisement, which is of course a bar to registration and thus inter alia to eligibility to receive payments from the 'Eady' levy.

Copies of the new forms are available from the Department of Trade, Rm 451 Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1, tel. 01-215 3612.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 17 November 1978.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Movietone News 2580	BR/E 39604/19/11/83	8	17 November	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
COMMUNITY					
Hitler – A Career	EC 39803/19/11/83	155	16 November	GTO Films (Distributions) Ltd	Interart Filmbeteiligungs-und Produktionsges mbH, Munich
FOREIGN					
Viollete Et Francois	F 39802	99	13 November	Gala Films Distributors Ltd	President Films, Paris

CORRECTION TO THE REGISTER
The maker of the film 'The Last Wave' (BR/E 39696/6/8/83), registered on 3 August 1978, has been corrected to Ayer Productions Pty Ltd.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGISTER
The title of the film 'Penelope Pulls It Off' (BR/E 38406C/3/1/81), registered on 30 December 1975, has been amended to 'Sexy Penelope'.

Films Act 1960: combination of quota periods

'Grease'

The Department of Trade, after consulting the Cinematograph Films Council and upon the application of EMI Cinemas Ltd, has issued a direction that the years 1978 and 1979, may be combined as a single quota period at the ABC1 Cinema, Staines, provided that the foreign film 'Grease' is exhibited for a continuous period of at least eight weeks and one day.

Index to statistics published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

(a) annually (m) monthly (q) quarterly Weekly statistics are not included

Aerospace cost indices (m) 3 Nov 78
Air transport trade by air (a) 25 Aug 78
Balance of payments current account (m) page 411
overseas royalties 12 Aug 77
trends in invisibles 6 Oct 78
see also Overseas trade of the UK
Business names and limited partnerships (a) 10 Feb 78
Capital expenditure manufacturing, distributive and service industries (q) 29 Sep 78
provisional (q) 1 Sep 78
by regions 18 Feb 77
leasing, hiring and renting out (a) 29 Sep 78
see also Investment
Catering trades turnover (q) 17Nov 78
Check trading (a) 7 Apr 78
Chemicals industry activity (q) 20 Oct 78
Companies acquisitions and mergers (q) 10 Nov 78
analysis of accounts (q) 7 Jul 78
insolvencies (q) 3 Nov 78
liquidity (q) 8 Sep 78
new registrations: Gt. Britain (m) page 426
N. Ireland (m) 10 Nov 78
rate of return on capital (a) 22 Sep 78
structure of company financing (a) 3 Feb 78
Construction industry housing report (m) 17 Nov 78
orders (m) 10 Nov 78
output and employment (q) 15 Sep 78
work overseas (a) 20 Oct 78
Consumers' expenditure (q) 27 Oct 78
Depositors, protection of Act 27 Oct 78
Earnings, wage rates (m) 3 Nov 78
Energy trends 10 Nov 78
Engineering industries electrical engineering (q) 22 Sep 78
instrument engineering (a) 30 Jun 78
production indices (m) 3 Nov 78
sales and orders (m) page 424
Film industry British Film Fund Agency returns (m) 20 Oct 78
cinema admissions and takings (m) 17 Nov 78
annual inquiry (a) 25 Aug 78
exhibitors' quota returns (a) 5 May 78
overseas payments and earnings (a) 25 Aug 78
registrations of films (a) 3 Feb 78
Food consumption levels (twice a year) 29 Sep 78
household consumption (q) 13 Oct 78
Footwear industry deliveries and stocks (m) 10 Nov 78
Foreign trade industrial countries' economic indicators (m) 3 Nov 78
quarterly analysis (q) 8 Sep 78
see also Overseas trade of the UK
Furniture deliveries and orders (m) 17 Nov 78
Health and safety (q) 11 Aug 78
Hire purchase business (m) 10 Nov 78
Housing see Construction industry
Industrial production index numbers (m) page 422
Scotland (q) 15 Aug 78
Wales (q) 3 Nov 78
Insurance companies authorisations and revocations (m) 17 Nov 78
investment (q) 13 Oct 78
investments and assets (a) 10 Nov 78
Investment book values of overseas direct investment (every 3 years) 25 Feb 77
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year) 6 Oct 78
10-year review (a) 27 Oct 78
investment and earnings overseas (a) 5 Aug 77
see also Capital expenditure, insurance companies, and pension funds
Land and building sales (a) 24 Mar 78
Made-up clothing orders and deliveries (m) 10 Nov 78
Man-made fibres deliveries (q) 1 Sep 78
production (m) 27 Oct 78
quarterly analysis (q) 1 Sep 78
Metal-working machine tools (m) 10 Nov 78
Moneylenders Acts 27 Oct 78
Motor industry car and commercial vehicle production (m) 29 Sep 78
provisional (m) 17 Nov 78
motor trade turnover page 425
Office development permits (q) 22 Sep 78
Official reserves (m) 10 Nov 78
Overseas trade of the UK analysis by industry (q) 1 Sep 78
analysis of trends (q) 8 Sep 78
direct exporters and credit terms (a) 21 Jul 78
export prospects (q) 15 Sep 78
import penetration (q) 18 Aug 78
invoicing in foreign currencies 3 Nov 78
see also Balance of payments
Pension funds Investment (q) 13 Oct 78
investments and assets (a) 10 Nov 78
Price Commission index (m) page 426
Regional development grants (q) 3 Nov 78
Research and development expenditure 24 Jun 77
employment 1 Jul 77
Retail price index (m) page 426
Retail trades sales (m) 10 Nov 78
provisional (m) 17 Nov 78
stocks (m) 17 Nov 78
Royalties: overseas transactions (a) 14 Jul 78
Securities, particulars of dealers in 10 Nov 78
Selective financial assistance section 7 (m) 10 Nov 78
section 7 £10,000 or more (q) page 418
section 8 (q) page 420
Shipping nationality of vessels in UK seaborne trade (a) 23 Jun 78
UK revenue (a) 13 Oct 78
Steel consumption and stocks (q) 27 Oct 78
provisional (q) 18 Aug 78
Stocks manufacturers' and distributors' (q) 29 Sep 78
provisional (q) 1 Sep 78
manufacturers' (m) 28 Jul 78
retail (m) 17 Nov 78
Television overseas payments and earnings (a) 25 Aug 78
Textiles activity in the industry (q) 20 Oct 78
carpet sales (m) 27 Oct 78
cotton industry production (m) 27 Oct 78
hosiery production (m) 27 Oct 78
wholesale houses' sales and stocks (m) page 422
wool exports (q) 29 Sep 78
wool output (m) 27 Oct 78
Tourism foreign arrivals (m) 10 Nov 78
overseas travel and tourism (a) 8 Sep 78
overseas travel and tourism (q) 27 Oct 78
Unemployment (m) page 374
Unit trusts, particulars of dealers in 10 Nov 78
Wholesale prices average prices of selected commodities (a) 14 Apr 78
index numbers (m) 17 Nov 78
initial summary (m) 10 Nov 78

Organisational information

Commercial representation guide 20 Oct 78
CRE contact points page 406
Departmental publications (m) 10 Nov 78
ECGD lines of credit 13 Oct 78
ECGD local offices 15 Aug 78
EEC guide This week
European public holiday guide (a) 25 Nov 77
Government statistics guide 21 Jul 78
Guide to departments 27 Jan 78
Guide to HM Customs and Excise 18 Aug 78
Guide to schemes of selective financial assistance 7 Oct 77
Index, Apr-Jun 22 Sep 78
OTAR contact points 13 Oct 78
Release dates of economic statistics (m) page 421
Trade promotions guide (q) 27 Oct 78

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123	133	143	153	163	173	183	193	203	213	223	233	243	253	263	273	283	293	303	313
124	134	144	154	164	174	184	194	204	214	224	234	244	254	264	274	284	294	304	314
125	135	145	155	165	175	185	195	205	215	225	235	245	255	265	275	285	295	305	315
126	136	146	156	166	176	186	196	206	216	226	236	246	256	266	276	286	296	306	316
127	137	147	157	167	177	187	197	207	217	227	237	247	257	267	277	287	297	307	317
128	138	148	158	168	178	188	198	208	218	228	238	248	258	268	278	288	298	308	318
129	139	149	159	169	169	189	199	209	219	229	239	249	259	269	279	289	299	309	319
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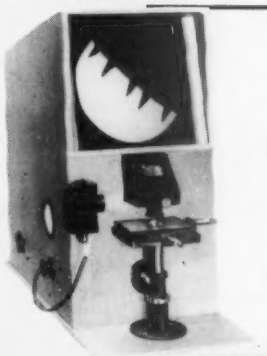

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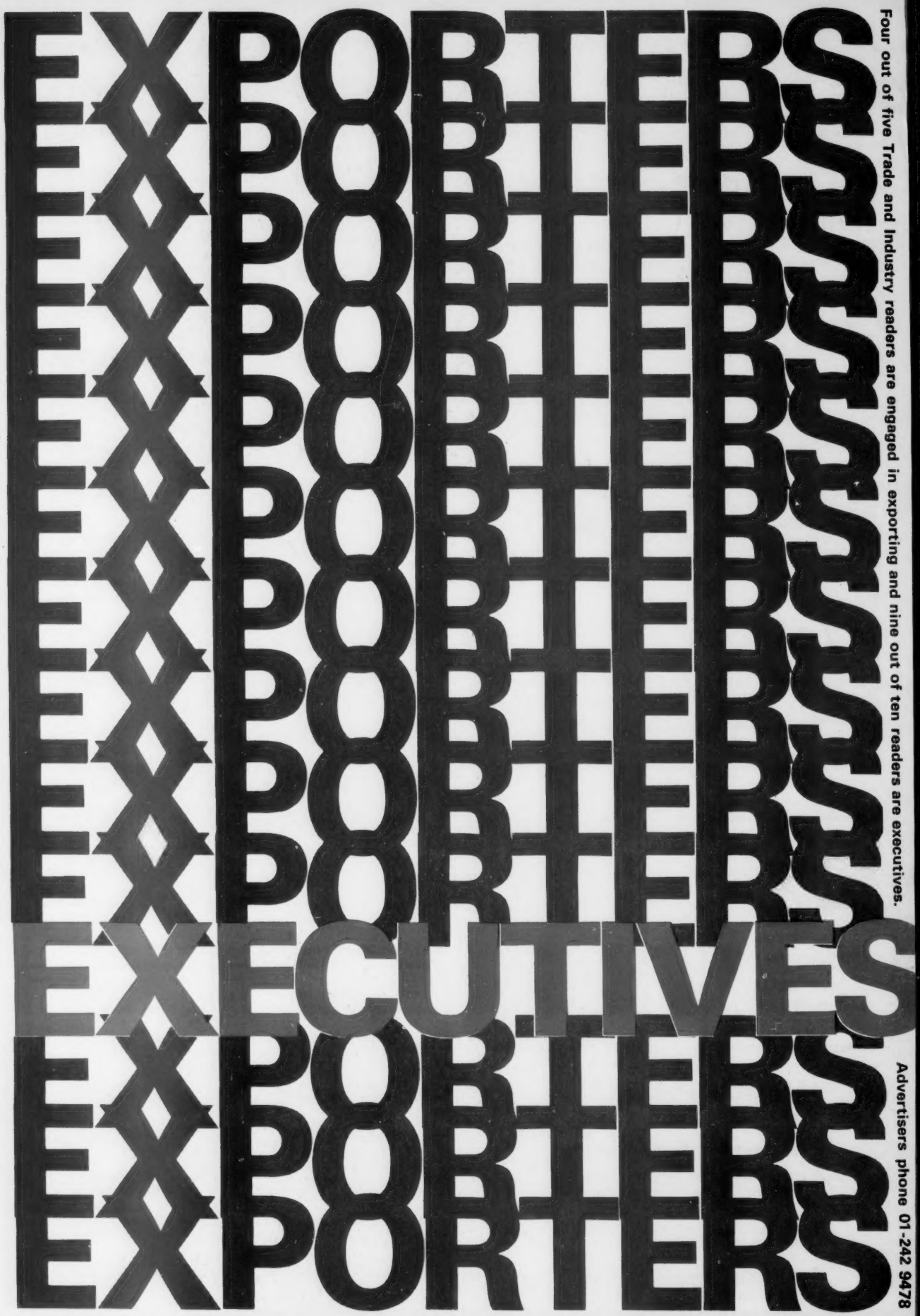

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